

The Monthly Chronicle

OF

NORTH-COUNTRY+LORE+AND+LEGEND

VOL. III.—No. 31.

SEPTEMBER, 1889.

PRICE 6D.

Men of Mark 'Twist Tyne and Tweed.

By Richard Welford.

Ralph Carr-Ellison,

LANDOWNER, ANTIQUARY, AND NATURALIST.

RALPH CARR-ELLISON (originally Ralph Carr) was the eldest son of John Carr, Esquire, of Dunston Hill and Hedgeley, sometime chairman of Durham County Quarter Sessions, and, according to Dr. Bruce, "a country gentleman of seemly presence and great mental ability." His mother was Hannah, eldest daughter of Henry Ellison, Esquire, of Hebburn Hall (sister of Cuthbert Ellison, Esq., for eighteen years M.P. for Newcastle), and, therefore, descended from Robert Ellison, representative of Newcastle in the Long Parliament, who married a sister of William Gray, the author of the "Chorographia." He was born on the 23rd November, 1805, was educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, as a gentleman commoner, and succeeded to the family estates upon the death of his father in 1817. He attained his majority in 1825, and four years later was united in marriage to Elizabeth, second daughter of Major John Werge, of the 38th Foot.

Clever and accomplished, Mr. Carr might have aspired, with every prospect of success, to a higher position in society. His abilities fitted him for a Parliamentary career, but he was fond of the country, and of country life, and rightly judging that the interests of his family had a prior claim on him, he elected to spend his time and his talents among his neighbours and his tenantry. One of the first public movements with which he identified himself was a local "Cottage Improvement Society"—a movement which had for its object, as

the name implies, the providing of better homes for the agricultural labourers of Northumberland. He was the honorary secretary and guiding spirit of this benevolent enterprise, which received the support of Lord Howick, Dr. Gilly, Mr. Bosanquet of Rock, and other leading landowners and clergymen in the northern part of the county. Living thus, he became a typical country



gentleman—hospitable, generous, accessible. Everybody spoke well of "Squire Carr of Hedgley," who had an open house for his friends, an open heart to public wants, and an open purse for every worthy object within the range of his influence.

Mr. Carr had been several years in the commission of the peace when, in 1845, his turn came to occupy the office of High Sheriff of Northumberland, and it fell to his lot to be the last High Sheriff to observe the time-honoured custom of meeting the judges at Sheriff Hill.

In his early manhood Mr. Carr took an active interest in a movement for preventing the employment of young boys in chimney sweeping. He was president of the Newcastle and Gateshead Society for the suppression of this barbarous practice, and in time his energetic efforts to obtain the co-operation of householders, master sweeps, the police and the Bench in putting an end to the system were crowned with success. On the formation of a branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Newcastle, he accepted the office of a vice-president, and contributed generously to its funds.

Intent upon the improvement of his estates, Mr. Carr was a diligent student of agriculture, natural history, and kindred subjects. He was one of the earliest members of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, the first of its kind in the kingdom, and wrote for its "Transactions" several valuable papers, i.e.:-

1844.—On the Flight of the Peregrine Falcon in Pursuit of Prey.

1860.—What is the use of the Lark's long heel claw?—On the Present Participle in the Northumberland Dialect, and on the Verbal Nouns or Nouns of Action terminating with "ing."

1870.—The North Humberland between Tyne and Tweed.

1872.—On the means whereby young Gallinaceous Birds are enabled to sustain life in any Seasons.—On Firelight, or the Minor Effects of Lightning on the Foliage of Trees.

1874.—Mémorial of the Rev. George Rooke, M.A.—On the Horse Chestnut as a Timber Tree.—Signification of Some Place Names in South Northumberland.

1879.—On the Effects of the Winter of 1878-9 on Vegetable Life and Birds at Hedgeley.

1880.—On the Effects of the Winter of 1869-80, &c.

1883.—Names of the Farne Islands and Lindisfarne.

He was also the originator of a kindred institution—the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club (1846) and its first President. The rules, which reflected chiefly Mr. Carr's views and feelings, provided that the club should discourage the removal of rare plants from localities of which they are characteristic, and avoid the risk of exterminating rare or interesting birds by wanton persecution (herein foreshadowing Uncle Toby's merciful propaganda), should cultivate a fuller knowledge of local antiquities, and promote a taste for carefully preserving the monuments of the past from wanton injury. To the "Transactions" of the club he contributed several interesting notes and papers, as follows:—

1847.—The Presidential Address.

1848.—On Extensive Fissures observed in the Stems of two living and healthy Trees of the Spruce Fir.

1849.—Observations on Composite Names of Places (chiefly in Northumberland) of Anglo-Saxon Derivation. (Three Papers.)

1854.—Notes on a Drive to Brinkburn.

1855.—Effects of the Severe Winter of 1854-55 upon Evergreen Vegetation in the North of England.

1861.—Effect of the Severe Winter of 1860-1 upon Evergreen Vegetation in Northumberland.

1875.—The Presidential Address.

1879.—Effect of the Severe Winter (1878) on Birds at Dunston Hill.

Side by side with his study of nature and natural phenomena, Mr. Carr cultivated a love for classical literature. He was an accomplished Greek and Latin scholar, was a high authority on Anglo-Saxon, was well acquainted with Scandinavian lore, could converse in many European languages, and could read all except the Slav and Turkish dialects. The preservation of ancient churches and monuments and other memorials of bygone days was one of the objects of his unceasing care, and he was a persistent advocate for the return to the original and uncorrupted spelling of local place-names.

In the "Archæologia Eliana," which contains the best of the papers read at the meetings of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, are many useful communications from his pen:—

1861.—Suggestions for Amended Local Appellations in the Ordnance Maps of Northumberland.

1874.—On the Dedications of the two Notable Altars found at Condercum.—On the Rudge Cup.—On an Altar found at Risingham.—The Anglo-Saxon Stone found at Falstone in 1813.

1876.—On two Inscribed Stones found at Jarrow in 1782.

1880.—On Saxon Names of certain Roman Roads.

1881.—On the meaning of the term "Ala Petriana."

He was also a contributor to the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland," the "Transactions of the Highland Agricultural Society," and the "Journal of Forestry," and the author of various papers, separately published, on antiquarian and sanitary subjects.

Mr. Carr was one of the few men who ever made the Ordnance Survey officials admit an error in topographical nomenclature. He owned the estate of Makenden at the head of Coquet, which runs up to what is locally known as "the Scotch Edge," where it "marches" with the property of the Duke of Roxburgh. In this district the boundary line between England and Scotland usually follows the water shed (or, as Dandie Dinmont expressed it, "the tap o' the hill, where win and water shears") between the valleys of the Teviot and Bowmont on the Scotch side, and those of the Rede, Coquet, and Breamish on the English. But in various places the Scotch, like "Jock o' Dawston Cleugh," have encroached over the crest of the hills. These encroachments are usually marked on old maps as "batable"—i.e., debatable ground. One such plot of "batable" land lay between the properties of Mr. Carr and the Duke of Roxburgh, where, according to the contention of the Scotch, the march leaves the "tap o' the hills and hauds down by the Syke" in which the Coquet rises, thus cutting off the Plea Shank, which, like Dandie Dinmont's ground, "lying high and exposed, may feed a hogg, or aiblins twa in a gude year." The spot is familiar to antiquaries, for the ancient Roman Camp, "Ad Fines," now known as Chew Green, lies just

below it, and the Roman Road of Watling Street here crosses the moors into Scotland. For the sake of peace it had been arranged, at some former time, between the owners and occupiers, that half the Plea Shank should be pastured by each party. But when the Ordnance Survey came to be made, the Scotch revived their claim to the whole, and by some means or other contrived to win over those who were conducting the survey. Little more was heard of the matter till the maps were issued, showing the boundary between England and Scotland drawn along the English side of the debatable ground. Then the English tenant was politely invited by his Scotch neighbour to keep his sheep on his own side of the new boundary. On hearing this, Mr. Carr took steps to obtain all possible evidence from ancient maps and documents in the British Museum and elsewhere; and instructed his tenant to turn a few sheep on to the disputed land in the meanwhile. Meeting the farmer shortly afterwards, Mr. Carr said, "Well Thompson, I suppose you put half-a-dozen sheep or so on to the Plea Shank?" "Oh, no, sir," was the answer, "I just wyped on fifty score!" The result of Mr. Carr's investigations was to show that the land had been either English or debatable for centuries. This was brought to the notice of the officials in charge of the Ordnance Survey, the already issued maps were recalled and cancelled, and new ones restoring the Plea Shank to its old "batable" character were published.

In conjunction with the late Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. Carr took an active part in promoting the larger scheme of the Central Northumberland Railway, the course of which was proposed to run from Newcastle to Scots Gap, thence by Rothbury and Powburn to Kelso—thus opening Central Northumberland from end to end. His regard for the improvement of towns, apart from the question of smoke abatement, in which he took a great interest, was shown by his endeavour to induce the North-Eastern Railway Company to plant the slopes of the Durham Railway Station, and by his ultimately providing himself the trees which now make a pleasing feature in the view from the city.

Under the will of his cousin, Cuthbert George Ellison, of Hebburn, lieutenant-colonel in the Grenadier Guards (proved in 1868), Mr. Carr was entitled to the reversion of a considerable portion of the Ellison estates on the death of the testator's mother and sister. It was in 1870 that, adding the name of Ellison to his own, he became Ralph Carr-Ellison. Not unfrequently change of name and accession of fortune conduce to pride and avarice. With Mr. Carr-Ellison it was otherwise. Munificent without ostentation, he enjoyed the luxury of giving, and gave of his substance freely. His liberality in building and restoring churches, schools, parsonages, and other public institutions, providing sites for chapels, and subscribing to all kinds of educational and philanthropic objects was not limited to the districts in which

his estates lay, but extended into localities which could not claim him as landlord. He was a Liberal in the true sense of the word—in politics, in religion, in the management of his property, and in social life. On certain days in each week he received all the poor people who called at his residence at Dunston Hill. Some of them attended for a long term of years, and after listening to their tales of want and misery, he gave them pecuniary aid, being especially generous to the Irish, whose treatment by parochial authorities was sometimes, he thought, harsh and unfeeling.

Mr. Carr-Ellison's career of activity and usefulness terminated on the 4th of February, 1884, and a few days later, with Dr. Bruce, Andrew Leslie, the Rev. Mr. Cooley, and Alderman Hodgson, son of the historian of Northumberland, as pall bearers, his remains were interred in the family vault at Whickham.

Sir Robert Chambers,

CHIEF JUSTICE OF BENGAL.

Robert Chambers, a solicitor who practised in Newcastle during the first half of last century, had three notable sons—Robert, who became a distinguished judge; Richard, who occupied a prominent position in the municipality as sheriff, alderman, and mayor; and William, who was a celebrated linguist, and acted as interpreter in his brother's court.

Richard Chambers, the second son, having taken up his freedom in the Saddlers' Company, began life in Newcastle as an ironmonger, and being of a speculative turn, was soon immersed in a variety of industrial undertakings. Besides his own business, which he carried on in conjunction with Mr. David Landells, he joined Gabriel Hall and Roger Heron in a hardware shop, went with Hall, Heron, and others into a tannery on Beamish Burn, and at length became a partner in the firm of R. J. Lambton, Esq., and Co., bankers. Entering the Common Council on the 6th December, 1784, he was made Sheriff for the municipal year 1786-7, and in May, 1795, was appointed an alderman. His election to this last-named office was attended by peculiar circumstances. A vacancy had occurred by the death of James Rudman, and when the electors met (Thursday, May 28) to elect a successor, no one was willing to take the honour. Proceeding by seniority of service, they elected James Wilkinson, a partner in the bank of Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., and Co., and upon his declining to serve they appointed Isaac Cookson, merchant, who also refused to accept the position. Next they chose William Surtees, merchant, and when they found that he was not willing to wear the gown they appointed Richard Bell, another merchant. Mr. Bell followed the example of the rest, and Aubone Surtees, jun., was chosen. He also declined the honour, and at length Richard Chambers, preferring the alderman's

gown to a penalty of two hundred marks (£133 6s. 8d.), in which each of the recusant councillors was mulcted, agreed to accept the office. His consent relieved the Council of a difficulty, and, at Michaelmas following, he was elected Mayor. The next year his affairs became embarrassed. His partnership in the bank was dissolved, insolvency followed, and heavy losses were incurred by numbers of industrious persons. After the failure, he went to London, started business afresh, and there he died, December 23, 1806, aged sixty-eight.

Robert Chambers, the eldest son of the attorney, was born in 1737. After receiving a sound preliminary training at the Royal Free Grammar School under the Rev. Hugh Moises, he was sent to Lincoln College Oxford, where, in July, 1754, he was elected to one of the exhibitions founded by Bishop Crewe. At Oxford his career was brilliant, and his promotion rapid. When he had completed his studies, University College elected him Fellow; in 1762, being only 25 years old, he received the important appointment of Vinerian Professor of Law; at Christmas, 1766, upon the resignation of William Blackstone, author of the famous "Commentaries on the Laws of England," he was elected Principal of New Inn Hall. Under his tuition young John Scott, afterwards Lord Chancellor Eldon, entered the University, and a few years later, when a runaway match with Bessie Surtees made it necessary that the budding and impecunious lawyer should study his profession, New Inn Hall sheltered him and his bride, and became the birthplace of their eldest son. Mr. Chambers, meanwhile, had risen to a high position among his contemporaries. His Vinerian lectures were thronged; statesmen and lawyers, poets and men of letters, were his intimate friends; he was employed in consultations and engaged in causes that added substance to fame, and wealth to reputation.

By-and-by temptations to leave Oxford were presented to him. In 1768 he was offered the post of Attorney-General in Jamaica—a position of honour and emolument, but the University had greater charms for him then, and he declined to undertake it. Later on there came an offer which he found himself at liberty to accept—a judgeship in the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal.

Up to this time Mr. Chambers had remained a bachelor, but in preparation for the new and exalted position which he was about to assume in India, he married. The object of his choice was the beautiful Miss Wilton, only daughter of Joseph Wilton, R.A., the precursor of Nollekens in English bust-making, and one of the founders of the Royal Academy. Accompanied by his mother and his wife, he left England in April, 1774, and, entering upon his judicial functions, dispensed justice with a tact and discrimination that won hearty approbation. He received the honour of knighthood in 1780, and in 1791 was promoted to the office of Chief Justice of Bengal.

At Oxford, Sir Robert Chambers counted among his more intimate friends the accomplished Oriental scholar,

Sir William Jones. Sir William had followed him to India, where, like himself, he fulfilled the duties of a judge. Renewing their friendship, they worked together in the study of Oriental languages and dialects, and the manners and customs of the vast populations among which they dispensed justice. The outcome of their labours was the formation of the "Asiatic Society of Bengal"—an institution designed to investigate the history and antiquities, the arts, sciences, and literature of Asia. Of this society Sir Robert Chambers became president in 1797.

When he had completed twenty-five years of uninterrupted service on the bench, Sir Robert came back to England to restore, in the home of his youth and the scenes of his maturer years, the health which tropical heats had weakened. He came too late. Soon after his arrival he began to decline, and in the spring of 1802, while in Paris, he was attacked by paralysis, which, on the 2nd of May, terminated his existence.

Sir Robert Chambers was a profound lawyer, an accurate and painstaking judge, an excellent scholar, and an accomplished man of the world. At Oxford, Burke and Goldsmith, Johnson and Garrick, were among his intimate associates; in India he softened the asperities of the bench by the cultivation of letters and the companionship of literary men. His friendship with Dr. Johnson was warm and lasting. Johnson was persuaded to undertake his long deferred journey into Scotland when he learned that Chambers would accompany him to Newcastle, and that William Scott, afterwards Lord Stowell, would go with him to Edinburgh. Sir Robert was the prime actor in that famous story about Johnson and the snails, which Lord Eldon pithily relates in his "Anecdote Book":—

I had a walk in New Inn Hall Garden with Dr. Johnson, Sir Robert Chambers, and some other gentlemen. Sir Robert was gathering snails and throwing them over the wall into his neighbour's garden. The doctor reproached him very roughly, and stated to him that this was unmannerly and unneighbourly. "Sir," said Sir Robert, "my neighbour is a Dissenter." "Oh," said the Doctor, "if so, Chambers, toss away, toss away, as hard as you can!"

William Chapman,

ENGINEER AND INVENTOR.

"There were brave men before Agamemnon"; there were famous engineers before the Stephensons. Little is heard to-day of William Chapman, an eminent engineer who lived and laboured in Newcastle long before the days of steam locomotion. His genius and fame are well-nigh forgotten; the enterprises with which his name were associated have been lost to sight; his inventions have become common property. Yet in the early part of the present century, whether as a successful inventor, or as the designer and leading spirit of great engineering undertakings, few men in the North of England enjoyed a higher reputation than he.

William Chapman came of a good family—the Chapmans of Whitby. His father (also William Chapman) was one of the “worthies” of that place. To him Dr. Young, the historian of the town, acknowledges indebtedness for useful material in the compilation of his book. He was a merchant captain, trading chiefly from the Baltic ports to the Tyne, in which business he acquired reputation for shrewdness and intrepidity—two qualities that were of high value at a time when bargains could not be sanctioned by telegraph, and the “lead” and the “look out” were the chief safeguards of navigation. He was ingenious too. On one of his voyages to Shields he discovered a plan for obtaining fresh water from the sea, and, having brought to land a specimen of the product of his amateur distillery, received the approbation of his friends at the Lawe and the Low Lights, who pronounced it a most excellent article in the form of punch! He exhumed the remains of a crocodile in the lias formation at Whitby, and the species of saurian which he rescued from its stony surroundings bears the name of *Telosaurus Chapmani* to this day. In his old age, Mr. Chapman, who was a freeman of Newcastle, came to live upon Tyneside, and died—“at his house in Saville Row, Newcastle, Oct. 15, 1793.”



William Chapman.

William Chapman the younger was born at Whitby in 1750, and was put in command of a merchant vessel as soon as he was eighteen years old. He had received a liberal education, and, caring nothing for a seafaring life, employed himself chiefly in studying the formation of the various ports and harbours to which his vessel traded, in

the hope, and with the object, of one day becoming a civil engineer. He went to sea for a few years, and then, obtaining the friendship of James Watt, and of his partner, Matthew Boulton, he accompanied the latter to Ireland, where, having written a prize essay on the effects of the river Dodder upon Dublin harbour, he obtained the appointment of resident engineer to the County of Kildare Canal. It was while acting in this capacity that he made his mark by inventing the skew arch. A description of the invention, from Mr. Chapman's pen, appears in “Rees's Encyclopædia,” under the heading “Oblique Arches.”

While the Kildare Canal was in progress, Mr. Chapman undertook the reconstruction of a bridge of five arches over the Liffey. A quicksand lay under the site of one of the piers, and it was impossible to avoid it, but Mr. Chapman overcame the difficulty with such remarkable ingenuity and success that offers of professional engagements came to him from all parts of Ireland. Among other projects on which he reported were improvements of the navigation of the Nore, the Barrow, and the Avoca, and the formation of a harbour at Arklow. Receiving the appointment of consulting engineer to the Grand Canal of Ireland, he laid out an extension of that canal from Roberts Town to Tullamore, a dock between Dublin and Ringsend, and a canal of communication by the line of the Circular Road. There were extensive bogs to be cut in the Tullamore extension, and the promoters had spent large sums of money in dealing with similar difficulties elsewhere. Mr. Chapman overcame these obstacles by a series of ingenious experiments, and the work was easily and expeditiously completed.

In 1794, Mr. Chapman came to Newcastle to report upon a project which was the subject of considerable agitation—that of constructing a canal from the German Ocean to the Irish Sea. He was a freeman of the town by patrimony, and he decided to remain here, and follow his profession as a consulting engineer. Into the advocacy of the canal scheme he entered with great heartiness and vigour. Between 1794 and 1798, he wrote several reports upon the subject, which were published by the promoters, and are to be found in every good collection of local tracts and pamphlets, as follows:—

1795. Survey of a Line of Navigation from Newcastle to the Irish Channel.

1795. Report on the proposed Navigation between the East and West Seas.

1796. Report on the Line of Navigation from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to the Irish Channel.

1796. Report on a Canal from Newcastle or North Shields towards Cumberland.

1797. Observations on Sutcliffe's Report in 1796 on the proposed Line from Stella to Hexham.

While the fate of the canal was still doubtful, Mr. Chapman was employed, conjointly with Mr. Rennie, in devising the London Dock, and the South Dock and Basin at Hull. He subsequently became engineer to the Commissioners of Leith and Scarborough Harbours, and

when Mr. Buddle induced the Marquis of Londonderry to construct Seaham Harbour, Mr. Chapman was the engineer to whom the undertaking was entrusted.

Mr. Chapman's inventive genius found scope in various directions. His brother, Edward Walton Chapman, was a roper at Willington, and for his benefit he patented, in 1797, a machine for making ropes in such a way that there should be equal strain upon each and all of the separate strands, and, later on, another apparatus for composing at one operation a rope of indeterminate length. In conjunction with this same brother Edward, he patented in December, 1812, "A Method or Methods of facilitating the Means and reducing the Expense of Carriage on Railways and other Roads." Another of his inventions was the "Coal Drop." He also obtained a patent (April 12, 1821) for a method of transferring the contents of lighters and barges into ships, &c., by the intervention of a small vessel called a "transferrer," fitted with a steam engine for haulage, and this invention was used at the Londonderry shipping places till the completion of Seaham Harbour.

Several ingenious papers were contributed by Mr. Chapman to the Proceedings of the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society, and others were published in pamphlet form, or in the serials of the day. Among the best known of his publications are—

1797. On the various Systems of Canal Navigation. 4to. Plates.

1808. On the Progressive Endeavours to improve the Manufacture and Duration of Cordage, with a Discussion on the means of causing Ships to ride at Anchor with greater safety. 4to. Three Engravings.

1815. Observations on the Effects of the Proposed Corn Laws. 8vo.

1815. Observations on the necessity of adopting Legislative Measures to diminish the probability of the recurrence of Fatal Accidents in Collieries, and to prolong the duration of the Coal Mines of the United Kingdom. 8vo.

1817. On the Preservation of Timber from Premature Decay. 8vo.

1830. A description of the Port of Seaham, in explanation of a Plan of the Harbour and a Chart of the Coast. 4to. Plates.

Mr. Chapman retained the full enjoyment of his faculties, and followed the active pursuits of his profession, till within a very short period of his decease, which took place on the 29th of May, 1832, having then entered into his 83rd year. "Gifted with a strong understanding, and with great and acknowledged talents, he was equally distinguished in private life by those amiable qualities which adorn the domestic scene, and constitute its chief enjoyments. It may truly be said that few men have descended into the grave more sincerely lamented by immediate relatives and connections, or more generally and extensively esteemed and respected."

Gibside and its Owners.

FEW gentlemen's seats in the immediate neighbourhood of Newcastle are more interesting than Gibside. Since the time when the grounds were laid out much as we find them now, by George Bowes, about the years 1740-1760, the name of Gibside has always been suggestive of pleasant walks and shady groves. Doubtless the place was one of some beauty before Mr. Bowes took it in hand. But it is to his taste that it owes much of the celebrity which it has possessed for a long time in the northern parts of the county of Durham. When Hutchinson wrote his "History of Durham"—shortly after the death of George Bowes—he declared that it was difficult to convey an idea of the beautiful and magnificent scenery of the place.

The celebrated Mrs. Montagu, of Denton Hall, writing to Benjamin Stillingfleet, from "Carville, Oct. 22, 1758" (she was staying at Carville, near Wallsend, while Denton Hall was being repaired), gives the following exaggerated account of Gibside:—"I had a very kind invitation from Mrs. Lowther to pass some time at Lowther Hall; I am told it is the finest place in the North; I believe I should rather have admired than coveted it; grandeur without softness pleases me in a place no better than dignity without courtesy in a man or woman. Lowther is much greater than Gibside, which is too great for me. I love woods, but I do not desire such forests that you would rather expect to be entertained in the evening with the howling of wolves and yelling of tigers than with Philomel's love-laboured song. Such a place is a fit pasture for Nebuchadnezzar; pride and tyranny may delight in it. I would divide the glebe with the husbandman. Useful Ceres, though she does not set up for a deity of taste, enlivens and embellishes a rural scene more than all the arts and sciences." As many of the present plantations were only commenced in 1729, and as plantings continued till 1760, the woods of Gibside would be very small in Mrs. Montagu's time.

Amongst the earlier possessors of Gibside was a family of the name of Marley, who resided at Marley Hill about the year 1200. The estates were held by the Marleys until 1540, in which year there was a failure of male issue, the last owner leaving an only daughter, Elizabeth. This heiress married Roger Blakeston, of Coxhoe, thus carrying the estates to another family. About the year 1694, there was again an heiress to the estates. The lands passed in course of time to the family of Bowes, of Streatlam Castle. Not quite another century passed away before there was another failure of male issue, when by the marriage in 1767 of Mary Eleanor, only daughter of George Bowes, of Streatlam and Gibside, to the Earl of Strath-

more, of Glamis Castle, Scotland, the lands were again transferred to another family.

The fortunes of Mary Eleanor, Countess of Strathmore, subsequent to the death of the earl about nine years after the marriage, are so well known that it is not necessary to enter into them here. (See the story of Stoney Bowes, vol. i., page 196.) The Earl of Strathmore left a family of three sons and two daughters. The eldest son John succeeded to the estates and titles. This nobleman died on July 31, 1820, having the day previously married Mary Milner, of Staindrop. Their son, the late John Bowes, succeeded, on coming of age, to the English estates, the Scotch estates and titles reverting to the Hon. Thomas Bowes, the only surviving brother of the late earl. John Bowes, the son of the Earl of Strathmore and Miss Mary Milner, possessed the Gibside and Streatham estates until his death in October, 1885, when, having died without issue, the estates reverted to the present Earl of Strathmore, who has a numerous family of sons and daughters.

The Dowager Countess of Strathmore married, on the 16th March, 1831, William Hutt, Esq., who subsequently became Sir William Hutt, and was for some years M.P. for Gateshead, and at one time Vice-President of the Board of Trade in Mr. Gladstone's Government. Mr. Hutt was visited at Gibside by Lord John Russell, and afterwards by Mr. Gladstone.

John Bowes, of Streatham and Gibside, was twice married, first to Josephine Benoit, Countess of Montalbo, a French lady. It was through this lady that the magnificent Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle was commenced. It was intended for her residence in case she survived Mr. Bowes; but she died in 1874. Her remains were brought to Gibside and placed on a bier underneath the chapel. Since Mr. Bowes's death they have been deposited in one of the vaults in the family mausoleum at Gibside. Mr. Bowes subsequently married another French lady, who survived him.

Gibside has continued to the present day to be a favourite resort of pleasure parties who obtain the permission of the proprietor to visit it. Whether the eminent landscape gardener, Capability Brown, had any hand in planning the various avenues and plantations, I cannot say. At any rate, they bear traces of the new school of gardening which Brown did so much to promote at the seats of noblemen and gentlemen. There are several places in Gibside that seem to have been laid out with great taste and judgment. At a spot called the Top of the Hollow Walk, there were (and it may truly be said to a certain extent that there are yet) three fine vistas in three different directions. If the view be directed towards the south, a fine avenue of beeches is seen commencing at the place where the observer is standing. Continuing the view forward, a grassy steep meets the sight, crowned at the top by an elegant Banqueting Hall. Although to

appearance there seems an avenue all the way to the Banqueting House, yet the eye entirely overlooks a fine piece of water concealed by the rising nature of the ground. If the gaze be turned to the westward, in the foreground is seen a descending piece of mossy sward, terminated at the bottom by a stretch of level verdure, again rising to about the same height as the spectator's standpoint. This forms an avenue fringed on each side by magnificent forest trees. Away beyond the last piece of rising sward stretches a fine terrace, formed by George Bowes about the year 1747, and mentioned in a letter from Bishop Pocock to his sister. At the west end of this terrace stands the elegant chapel, formed after a classical model, with an Ionic portico in front. If, now, the spectator will turn himself to the north, he will see a wide lawn descending to another sheet of water surrounded by trees, and covered in the season with a profusion of white water lilies (*Nymphaea alba*). Let the visitor now descend this lawn and place himself on the western edge of the lily pond, and he will see, if the day be calm and the face of the pond be free from ripple, a beautiful picture of a bank of trees with the Column of Liberty (described in vol. ii., page 466) reflected in the water as if in a sheet of silvered glass. He will also find himself surrounded on nearly all sides by lofty forest trees. The taste and judgment must have been highly cultivated that could plan so many beauties to be seen from one point of view.

The Banqueting Hall was erected by George Bowes, and the writer has been informed that he died before it was put to any use. It is built in the Florid Gothic style, with ornamented crockets. A pointed spire rises above the front entrance. The door and windows are glazed in geometrical patterns. The interior consists of a spacious dining and luncheon hall, with a handsomely ornamented ceiling. A staircase leads to the roof, from which there is a fine view. The floor is of pine, and is laid so that not a nail hole or mark is visible. At each end are mirrors in the walls, so that when a company would be seated there would be what appeared an almost endless length of table and guests. Altogether it was an elegant erection, and quite in keeping with the rest of the grounds and buildings.

The chapel, which stands at the west end of the terrace made by George Bowes, was commenced in the year 1760, but was not consecrated until 1812. It was intended to serve, and does serve, both as a place of worship and a family mausoleum. The mausoleum is underneath the chapel, and is entered by a door on the west side, which opens on a short passage and some steps to a burial vault. This vault is formed by a groined arch, round the sides of which are arranged in a semicircle the niches for the reception of the remains of the members of the family. There are eleven of these, but about four or five are still unoccupied. George Bowes, who commenced to build the chapel, was first interred at Whickham, but his remains

were removed here on the consecration and completion of the edifice. The interior of the chapel is very handsome. Outside is a handsome Ionic portico, with flights of stone steps leading up to the porch, and protected with stone balustrades.

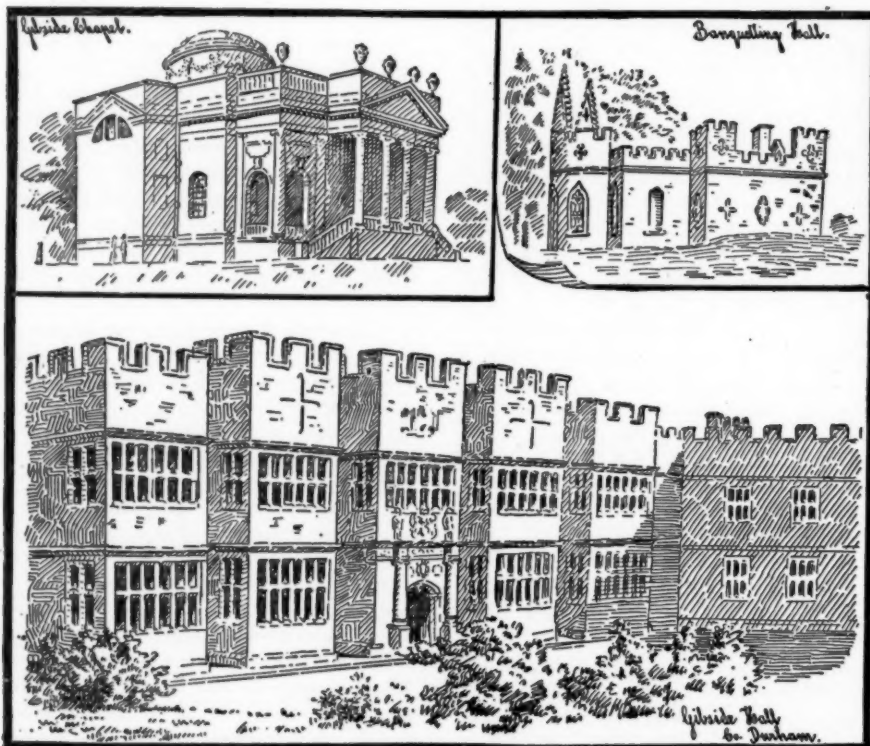
The Hall itself is a long and low building of only two storeys in height, except at the east end, where the ground shelves rapidly. The windows looking towards the park or the south, as may be seen from our drawing, are divided by heavy stone mullions. Above the front door is a sundial, which has already been described in the *Monthly Chronicle*. (See page 294.) Previous to 1805, when the hall was altered to its present shape, it was, as may be seen from an engraving in Hutchinson's "History of Durham," three storeys high and covered with grey slates. The hall on the northern side stands on the top of a steep declivity, terminated at the bottom by a level haugh or plain, round which the Derwent flows.

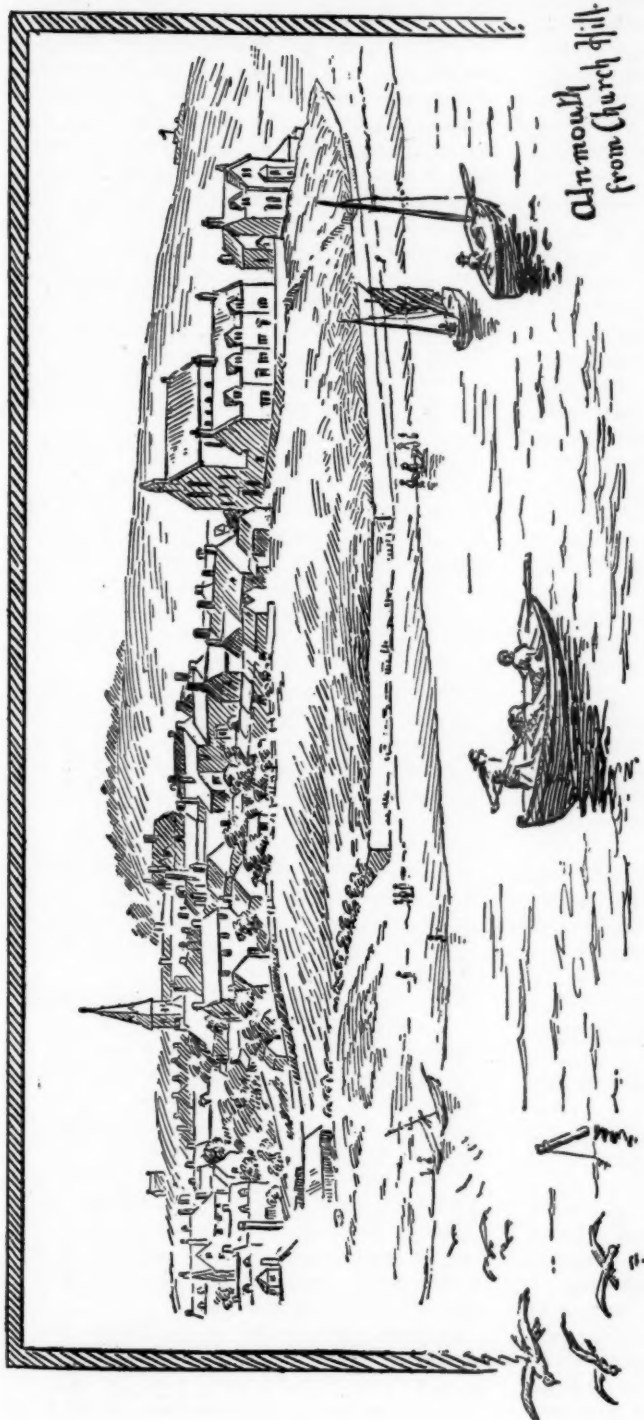
Another sketch of Gibside, copied from Allom's Views, was given in vol. I., page 200. JAS. F. ROBINSON.

The Village of Alnmouth.

ALN MOUTH, as seen under azure skies through a sunny and crystalline atmosphere, may truly be described as the prettiest watering-place on the coast of Northumberland. The village is attractive from many points of view, and especially from the Church Hill, on the opposite side of the river.

Standing on this dune-like mound, we observe that the village is seated on a peninsular tongue of land—the extremity of a high green ridge sweeping round from Lesbury. On the east side is the sea, on the south and west sides the river. In the background are the terraced sea-banks and the Wallop Hill, which have evidently been moulded into their present form by the action of water. On the summit of the latter, which is 157 feet above the sea-level, the ancient burgesses of Alnmouth were required, in the event of an outbreak of hostilities between the Scots and the English, to keep a "good sur watch" during the day time as well as the night time, and to maintain two beacons for the purpose of alarming the country on the approach of the enemy. Immediately below the hill on the west side is a camp of the ancient Britons, in shape an irregular





quadrangle, the ramparts of which, however, are not visible from the standpoint of our sketch. About two hundred yards from this camp is the entrance to the village, which consists of a long and undulating street running north and south, with a few terraces and lanes branching off on each side.

A snug and compact little village, old-fashioned in appearance, and picturesquely irregular! The better-class houses and the fishermen's cottages are in friendly juxta-position. They face all the points of the compass. Here you see a front, there a gable. In many villages you have the roofs of the houses all of one height, and continuous along a terrace or crescent; but here you find them at different levels, broken in a few cases by dormer windows, blue slated and red-tiled. Surmounting them all is the elegant spire of St. John's Church—a familiar land-mark. The village owes much of its character, architecturally, to a number of heavy-looking buildings, such as the parish Sunday-school, the Alnmouth Academy, and several dwelling-houses, all of which were originally granaries. Alnmouth, till the opening of the railway, was a port of some consequence, and exported large quantities of corn. Several of the houses in Alnmouth are old. At the very entrance to the village we observe on a door-head the date 1713. Facing the river are some newly-built villas. The eye dwells with pleasure on a clump of tall trees at the north end of the village in the possession of a colony of rooks, on a few little gardens nearer hand, and on the green bank which rises from the fawn-coloured sand by the side of the Aln.

Adjoining the village on the east side is the recreation-ground of the inhabitants and their visitors. Here is played the seductive game of golf, which has contributed so much to the popularity of the place. The clubhouse, with its pretty verandah, is situated at the south-west corner of the links. This fine open space is a scene of animation when the patrons

of the racket, the bat, and the hickory club are indulging in their favourite pastimes. Seated among the sandy hummocks at the edge of the links are several bathing-boxes painted in gay colours, the Life-boat House, and a similar building—the Bathers' Life-Saving Boat House. A shapely coble is resting on wheels on the beach ready to be run into deep water. The sea-banks, with the gun battery upon them for the use of the Percy Artillery Volunteers, form the termination of our view to the north.

Having carefully examined the village and its surroundings, we turn to the hillock on which we are standing, for it is historic ground. This was probably the Twyford-on-the-Alne which is mentioned by Bede as the place where in 684 a great synod was held, presided over by Archbishop Theodore, and dignified by the presence of King Egfrid and his council—a synod memorable for its election of St. Cuthbert as the Bishop of Lindisfarne. A church, dedicated to St. Waleric, had already been built here at this time, an interesting relic of which—a portion of the shaft of an Anglian cross—is preserved in Alnwick Castle. Five centuries later another church was erected on the same site, but dedicated to St. John the Baptist. This building was in ruins in 1779, when Paul Jones, cruising off the coast, fired a cannon-ball at it—without hitting the mark, however. Till 1806 the river entered the sea on the south side of the hill, but in that year it altered its course to the north side. The portion of the hill on which the old church stood has crumbled away. The site of the graveyard is indicated by a few flat tombstones of the last century. The little mortuary chapel, built about twenty-seven years ago, will soon be in ruins if not repaired. Some of the voussours of the arch of its finely-ornamented door seem to be giving way. To the south of the hill is a waste of blown sand overgrown with tussocks of withered-looking bents. Stranded on the salt-marshes is a condemned lighter, an object in the picture which a painter will know how to appreciate.

Our view is taken from a photograph by Messrs. G. W. Wilson & Co., of Aberdeen. W. W. TOMLINSON.

Racing in the Northern Counties.

By the late James Clephan.



ORSE-RACES are of high antiquity—higher than we can get at. The horses themselves began them, without the admixture of prizes or betting. Organised racing is an afterthought of man, the origin of which is remote enough, and immaterial. In our own country it is comparatively modern. We come across no race-meetings in the North in the days of Elizabeth. If such assemblies there were,

they do but peep out upon us from the materials of history, and refuse to be clearly seen. What, for example, are we to infer, with any precision, from the allusion in the year 1613 to "Woodham Stowpes, the now usual weighing-place upon Woodham Moore." The "now usual weighing-place" of the earlier half of the reign of King James may carry us back we know not how far into the reign of Queen Elizabeth. James, on his progress to Scotland in 1617, attended the races on Woodham Moor, in the parish of Aycliffe (adjoining the Great North Road, about eight miles from Darlington), and saw a contest between the horses of William Salvin and Master Maddockes for a gold purse; and at this spot there continued to be meetings from year to year. Of one of these, held in 1620, there is incidental mention in connection with a certain "Mr. Topp Heath," who, "dying upon Mainsforth Moore coming from a horse-race, was buried on the 1st of April."

All this time we hear nothing of races in connection with Newcastle. The reign of James passed away; his son Charles succeeded to the throne; and then, in 1632, occurs an entry in the corporate accounts of the Tyne quoted by Mr. Hodgson Hinde in the fourth volume of the "*Archæologia Æliana*" (New Series):—"Paid £20 to John Blakiston, chamberlain, which he disbursed for two silver potts granted by the Common Council for the race on Killingworth Moor after Whitsuntide."

Next year, on the 5th of June, Thomas Bowes despatched a packet addressed "To the Right Worshipful my assured lovinge nephew, Matthew Hutton, Esq., at Marske, these be dd." The contents were to be delivered to a grandson and namesake of the Elizabethan Bishop of Durham and Archbishop of York. "Sir George Bowes," said the writer, "is now at Newcastle, and yt seems he thinks his money will never have an end, for he is making matches with the lordes of horse-courses, and, as we heare, hath made two matches, the one for 40.li., and thother for 100.li., so that wee feare he will make an end of all soone."

It was in the same year, 1633, that John Vaux, clerk, of St. Helen's Auckland, was brought to book for "sundrie misdemeanors." (Surtees Society, vol. 34.) The evidence then given in the High Commission Court of Durham has something to say about our Northern races. One of the witnesses, Thomas Wrangham from Heighington, lets us into the secret that the "sporting prophets" of the present day had been anticipated by an Auckland parson of the time of King Charles. About Christmas, 1631, "one Bryan Wall came to Mr. Vaux to have his opinion touchinge a horse-course, and whoe he thought would winn the match, and Vaux gave his opinion in the presence of examinate."

In another case reported in the Surtees Society's volume, we have Anthony Fawell of Durham deposing as to "Thomas Wandles, clerk," that "he did see him coursing a bay maire at Woodham Moore" on the 17th of

May, 1625. "Wandles," said Edmond Ellinor of Hutton Henry, "doth often use horse-coursing, and did himself run his horse at Woodham Moor, and there he broke his collar bone, as he told examine, and doth often use hunting with dogges."

Races were striking root in the land in the reigns of the first of our Stuart kings, but a shadow came over them after the fall of the Monarchy. "Cakes and ale" were in less favour under the Commonwealth; and, besides, there were political grounds of disfavour. There was an apprehension that race and other meetings of the kind were got up as a cloak for aggressive designs on the new order of government. From the Calendar of State Papers we learn with what distrust the authorities regarded such assemblies. Thus, in 1651, the year in which the battle of Worcester brought the Civil War to a close, the Council of State ordered the preparation of a report to Parliament against horse-races, hunting and hawking matches, and football-playing; and a letter was to be sent "to the Militia Commissioners throughout the kingdom, to take care that public meetings for races, cockfighting, &c., be prevented." Promptly the circular despatch was on its rounds, setting forth the information "that the enemies of the Commonwealth were still driving on their designs to raise new troubles." There were "dangerous meetings and conferences in many places, for contriving and disposing plots, under colour and pretence of cockfighting, horse-racing, hunting, and other meetings for recreation; which, if there be not care used to prevent or disperse, may much conduce to the ripening of their counsels, and give a beginning to the breaking out of insurrections and rebellions." "Enquire after all these and the like meetings," the circular commanded; "appoint some of your militia force to attend the times and places; and either prevent the meetings or disperse them, and take care that the public peace may not be endangered by them. Observe and secure the chief promoters of these meetings, and such as shall affront or oppose you in the execution of this order, and signify the same to the Council, who will give further directions therein."

The opposition of the Council of State to horse-racing and other amusements chafed the popular mind. We have seen what fears were excited in 1651, and in the time of the Protectorate it was still considered expedient to keep a watchful eye on the race-course. On the 11th of June, 1657, one of the Yorkshire members, Sir William Strickland, was laying a paper before the House of Commons which instructs us as to the working of the resistance to favourite sports. He had received the paper from Robert Ogle, of Eslington, gentleman, the writer; and it was now read. Ogle stated that in April last, being at his inn in Alnwick, Sir Robert Collingwood, of Branton; John Salkeld the younger, of Rock; Daniel Collingwood, the son of Sir Robert; and one Robert Pemberton, came into the room where he was. Falling into discourse about a king, Sir Robert said: "We must

have a king, and will have a king, and my Lord Protector dares not refuse it." And afterwards he began to inveigh against Robert Fenwick, of Bedlington (one of the three members for Northumberland). The writer, some few days before, being in company where Cavalier gentlemen were murmuring that they had been debarred from horse races, Daniel Collingwood took the liberty to say "that there was none now in power but the Rascality, who envied that gentlemen should enjoy their recreations."

After the reading of his paper, Ogle was called into the House and examined by the Speaker, Sir Thomas Widdrington, of Cheeseburn Grange, another of the members for Northumberland; and when he had verified his signature, and affirmed his statement to be true, it was ordered that Sir Robert and his son be sent for as delinquents. The latter appeared on the 23rd of June; when, kneeling at the bar, he did utterly deny that he spoke any such words as "that there were none but the Rascality now in power, who envied that gentlemen should enjoy their recreations." Whereupon he was instructed to withdraw, and it was ordered that he be discharged. To his father, Sir Robert, further time was granted. Not until the 29th of January, 1658, did the Northumbrian knight present himself before the Commons. He then admitted that he was in Alnwick at the time and place named, but denied the words ascribed to him; and he forthwith had his discharge also. Some seven years afterwards, in the Long Parliament of Charles the Second, Daniel Collingwood, of Branton, once more appeared before the Speaker, taking his place, not now on his knees as a delinquent, but on the benches among the members, as one of the representatives of Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Horse-racing was once more in the ascendant, and nobody begrudged the poor bear his baiting. Races had their revival in the land, with cockfights and bear-baiting, hawking and football. "The king had his own again," and "cakes and ale" had their swing. Now it was, perchance, that Edward Elgie, the mason of Bishop Auckland, "won at Darlington" (as we read in the historic pages of Mr. W. H. D. Longstaffe) that "best piece of silver plate" which in 1667 he was bequeathing to Dorothy his wife. In that year, on the 4th of June, Newcastle having its "horse-coursing" as before, Richard Forster, landlord of the Angel, the diligent correspondent of Sir Joseph Williamson of the *London Gazette*, was reporting progress. In the year 1667, Williamson not only had charge of the *Gazette*, but was sending "News Letters" to all parts of the kingdom, and also to foreign lands. "To-day," wrote Forster, on Tuesday, June 4, "is the first day of the races, but there is small appearance of the neighbouring gentry. The Duke of Buckingham"—who had fought his famous duel with the Earl of Shrewsbury on the 16th of March previously—"has two horses that will run."

The races went on four days; and on Friday, the 7th

of June, Forster was again writing to Sir Joseph:—"The horse-course is ended. No plate was brought in for Northumberland. The town's plate has been given to horses run by friends of the Duke. No other horses ran."

Poor sport—"no plate for Northumberland"—"small appearance of the neighbouring gentry." Men's minds were not running on the races, but on the Dutch. When Forster took pen in hand, on the 4th of June, Pepys was poring over his diary, and confessing in cipher that he had been hankering after the keeping of a coach; but with the French and the Dutch on the seas, and not knowing what might turn up or come down, he paused. Coaches and races must stand aside till the course was clear.

The course cleared, and the races went on all over England, flourishing on the Tyne through the remainder of the century, and enjoying, as at its commencement, the patronage of the Corporation. The Common Council had them under consideration, on the 6th of August, 1695, when it was resolved "that for the future it be inserted in the *Gazette* that no horses shall run for the plate of this town that ever ran at any course on the south side of Trent."

In August of 1707, the Common Council were passing a resolution as to the "horse course," that no cords be used or paid for, for the future, at Killingworth Moor. Also, in June, 1715, "that the plate given yearly by the town, to be run for on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, should not for the future exceed the value of £25." A "County Plate" occurs in the year ensuing (1716). The entry is given by Mr. Hodgson Hinde as the earliest "List of the Running Horses" extant for any race run at Newcastle:—

Edward Carr, of Whitburn, Esq., a bay mare called *Silvernout*, James Garth rider, in white.
Fenwick Bowman, Gentleman, *alias* Bonner, a bay mare called *Creeping Kate*, Bowman rider, in white.
Sir William Blackett, a chestnut horse called *Bagpiper*, Jonathan Cooper rider, in blue.
Mr. Robert Todd, a bay gelding called *Bouncer*, Jeremiah Forster rider, in white.

In 1721, Killingworth divided the races with Newcastle. A county plate, value £25, given by the High Sheriff (Edward Delaval), was run for at Killingworth on the Tuesday; and the remaining races took place on the Town Moor of Newcastle. Entries for the county plate were to be made with the Clerk of the Peace for Northumberland: for the gold cup of the Corporation, with the Town Clerk. "For the gentlemen's diversion, cockfighting every forenoon at Mr. Hill's pit," this being the earliest mention of cockfights in connection with Newcastle races. But from 1712 downwards, at other places in Newcastle and neighbouring towns and villages, cockfighting occurs.

Morpeth had its races in 1721 at Cottingwood, and Hexham on Tyne Green. In 1723 were the first races on record on the fine natural turf of Milfield Plain. There

were races at Gateshead in 1724. At this period there were also races at Sunderland, Durham, Stockton, Barnard Castle, Auckland, and Yarm. Durham races were held on alternate days on Elvet and Framwellgate Moors; and Auckland on alternate days on Auckland Holm and Hunwick Edge. Stockton races were held on the Cars on the south side of the Tees, then accessible from the town only by a ferryboat. Between 1724 and 1740, advertisements occur of races (says Mr. Hodgson Hinde) at the following places in Northumberland and Durham, in addition to those already noticed:—Tynemouth, Blyth, Felton, Bamburgh, Alnmouth, Stamfordham, Long Benton, Newburn, Stagshawbank, Druridge, Sleekburn, Bywell, Willington Quay, and Newham; South Shields, Darlington, Wolsingham, Hartlepool, Staindrop, Sedgfield, Chester-le-Street, Lanchester, Wotton Gilbert, Hamsterley, Heighington, Whickham, Ryton, Winlaton, Blaydon, Tanfield, Brian's Leap, Hebburn.

Racing was now so common, many small communities everywhere having "meetings," that Parliament interposed in 1740. The Act 13 George II., cap. 19, was placed on the Statute Book:—"An Act to restrain and prevent the excessive increase of horse-races." The preamble recites:—"Whereas the great number of horse-races for small plates, prizes, or sums of money, have contributed very much to the encouragement of idleness, to the impoverishment of many of the meaner sorts of the subjects of this kingdom; and the breed of strong and useful horses hath been much prejudiced thereby." For correction of which evils, all horses running were to be the property of the persons entering them; and no man must enter more than one horse for the same race. Nor was any plate to be run for under the value of £50.

As one of the results of this statute, Newcastle races shrunk to three days; while many places lost their meetings altogether. Only Newcastle, Morpeth, Hexham, Durham, and Stockton races were continued on a legal footing. Alnwick, Milfield, Barnard Castle, and Sunderland were afterwards revived; besides which, there are frequent presentments by grand juries of illegal meetings at other places.

In his "Local Records," Mr. Thomas Richmond gives a copy of the Stockton Race Bill of 1735. The races were run on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th of September, ending with the week; and the humours of the meeting comprised a foot-match among women, three times round the course, for a prize "of the full value of two guineas, 'given by a gentleman.'" Every forenoon there was a main of cocks between the gentlemen of Richmondshire and the gentlemen of Guisbrough; and every evening an assembly. The first corporate notice appears on the minutes of 1746, when there is a charge for "cash taken from the sergeant's rent to balance the race account, £15 10s. 1d." We read in the same year that the races in Stockton were to begin on the 26th of August, "the tides then falling suitable for the purpose." The course, being

carse land, was liable to be flooded; and in October, 1812, in consequence of an inundation of the river, the appointed time was postponed. In 1855, the meeting was held "on the new course, near Mandale."

Reverting to Newcastle, it was ordered by the Common Council, in April, 1742, as to the "horse-course," that "the prize on Thursday next after Trinity Sunday," falling on May 13, "be changed to a gold cup of £50 value, excluding the fashion and making."

The races of the kingdom were brought to a stand in 1749 by an epidemic among horned cattle. So virulent and fatal was this disease that all races, fairs, cockfights, &c., were prohibited, as a check on the spread of infection; and neither the year 1749 nor 1750 had a regular meeting in Newcastle. But the Duke of Cleveland and Mr. Fenwick, of Bywell, ran a match for two hundred guineas, which the latter won.

Long had the races of Newcastle now been held in Trinity week, although a meeting governed by a moveable feast was apt to clash occasionally with appointments made elsewhere. The inconvenience was at last felt to be so pressing that, on the revival of the meeting in 1751, Midsummer week (or the week nearest to Midsummer) was substituted—an arrangement that continued far away down into the present century, with the exception of the years from 1821 to 1829 inclusive, when July was preferred.

The "King's Plate" of a hundred guineas was acquired by Newcastle in 1753, and five days' racing was thus secured. "Occasionally a race was got up on the Saturday, and there are even instances when the meeting was protracted into the following week."

Whatever the operation of the Act of 1740, it did not confine race-meetings altogether to the larger towns. Many instances to the contrary might be adduced. In the month of May, 1758, as appears by the "Autobiography of the Rev. Dr. Alexander Carlyle, Minister of Inveresk," Chester-le-Street had its races; and Dr. Robertson, the historian, John Home, the dramatist, and Dr. Carlyle, returning to Edinburgh from London, were (incog.) among the more distinguished spectators of the sports. The three illustrious Scots, journeying from Durham to Newcastle, "could not resist the allurements" of a race on the road, one or more of them not having witnessed such a meeting in England. Renouncing the prospect of an early arrival on the Tyne, they tarried "to see John Bull at his favourite amusement." "There was a great crowd, and the Mrs. and Misses Bull made a conspicuous part of the scene, their equipages being single and double horses, sometimes triple, and many of them ill-mounted, and yet all of them with a keenness, eagerness, violence of motion and loudness of vociferation, that appeared like madness to us; for one thought them in extreme danger, by their crossing and jostling in all directions at the full gallop; and yet none of them fell. Having tired our horses with this diversion, we were obliged to halt at an inn to give

them a little corn; for we had been four hours on horseback, and we had nine miles to Newcastle." All were jaded—the steeds and their riders; "and it was ten o'clock before we arrived."

What more shall be said of the eighteenth century—a century which closed with the erection of a Grand Stand on Newcastle Town Moor? The tale would be too long, and lose much of its historic interest. It shall, therefore, so far as the present writer is concerned, have now its end. Not far back have we been able to go in our Northern narrative. Surtees, as we have seen, names 1613 as the year in which occurs the earliest mention of public races in the county palatine. Thomas Robson and John Bainbrigge, Gentlemen, then bound themselves to Sir George Selby and Sir Charles Wren, in a recognizance of a hundred marks, to provide a piece of gold and silver plate, in the form of a bowl or cup, to be run for yearly, "at the now usual weighing place on Woodham Moor," on the Tuesday before Palm Sunday. For how long a period, previously, this "usual" race-course had been thus frequented must be left in the doubt that belongs to the vague record.

An interesting note relating to Newcastle races is appended to an article on "Sir Edward Radcliffe, of Dilston," by the Rev. Jas. Raine, jun., which appears in the first volume of the new series of the "Archæologia Æliana," published in 1857. Mr. Raine quotes the following letter from Sir Henry Babington, asking Sir Edward Radcliffe for a subscription to the horse-races at Killingworth:—

March 17, 1621.

Worthy Sir,—Being presently to goe to London, and to collect the money for the horse-race, for Sir John Fenwicke, whose yeare it is to bring in the plate, I have sent this bearer, my man, to you first—being the worthiest benefactor to our country sports—with the note of al the forinders' names, to set a crosse before every one name that hath payd, and so remembering my service to yourselfe and brothers, I rest—Your affectionat friend,

HENRY BABINGTON.

"Babington's note of 'al the forinders' names' set forth that the following gentlemen had subscribed five pounds each:—Sir Edward Radcliffe, Bart., Sir John Fenwicke, Kt., Sir Ralph Delaval, Kt., Sir William Selby, Kt., and Sir William Widdrington. The receipt for Radcliffe's subscription was couched in the following terms:—

March 18, 1621.

Received by me, Robert Butcher, servant to Sir Henry Babington, Knt., the sum of five pounds from the hands of Sir Edward Radcliffe, Baronet, for the contribution, amongst other gentlemen, to the horse-race at Killingworth, payable yearly during the pleasure of the said Sir Edward, and in this year collected by Sir Henry Babington. ROBERT BUTCHER, x his marke.

Half a century later—that is to say, in 1673—John Dodsworth, of Thornton Watlass, left by will to Thomas Gabetis, of Crosby Ravensworth, "my silver flaggon which I wonne first at Killingworth Moore."

Wenceslaus Hollar, a celebrated engraver who came to England from Bohemia in 1636, etched in 1645 a plan of the River Tyne, as "described by Ra. Gardner, gent.,"

depicting the country between the river and the villages of Backworth, Earsdon, and Hartley. This plan contains also a sketch of the races on Killingworth Moor. Through the courtesy of Mr. C. J. Spence, who had placed in his hands an enlarged photograph of that part of Hollar's plan which shows the district between Billy Mill and Benton Church, the editor of the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* was enabled, on June 29, 1889, to present his readers with a reproduction of the only known picture of Newcastle races on Killingworth Moor. The starting post was shown near Moorhouses, the winning post was shown near Benton Church, and the course seems to have been three miles long.

The races were continued on the Town Moor of Newcastle till 1882, when they were transferred to Gosforth Park.

EDITOR.

The North-Country Garland of Song.

By John Stokoe.

THE HORRID WAR I' SANGYET.

HIS song commemorates an event still fresh in the memories of many residents in Newcastle. It occurred on the evening of Sunday, 11th of May, 1851, and our local bard's poetical description of the war is in strict keeping with contemporaneous reports, though the boast of the singer as to his share in the Homeric strife would hardly be sworn to, we fear, by Inspector Scott, who was a cautious man. There is no doubt, however, that the police would have been very roughly handled but for the antipathy of the Quayside porter pokemen and the keelmen to the Irish disturbers of the peace.

Joseph Philip Robson, the author of the song, and "Minstrel of the Tyne and Wear," as he described himself, was born in Bailiff-Gate on the 27th September, 1808. At an early age he lost both parents, his mother dying when he was six, and his father when he was only eight years of age. His father had been educated at Stonyhurst College; but, his health failing, he was obliged to relinquish his studies, and ultimately settled in Newcastle as teacher of the Catholic School. Joseph Philip, his son, after a brief apprenticeship to a plane maker, became also a schoolmaster, and from his earliest years was devoted to the Muses. When twenty-three years of age his "Blossoms of Poesy" appeared, followed in 1839 by "Poetic Gatherings," in 1852 by "Poetic Pencilings" in 1857 by "Hermione the Beloved" (when Her Majesty was persuaded by Lord Palmerston to send our poet a paltry gratuity of £20), and in 1869 by "Evangeline, or the Spirit of Progress." The latter work, in two parts, is a masterpiece of poetic production, in which the struggles of the great George Stephenson

are cleverly introduced. Most of the other contents of the volume are really of a high order. They are, as the title page describes them, sentimental, humorous, and local, as Robson's ideas were always original, his imagination vivid, his ability varied and capricious, but without being capricious enough to render it eccentric. Besides these effusions he did much other literary work for local publications, and in 1859 he was engaged in the curious task of converting a version of the "Song of Solomon" into the Lowland Scottish dialect for Prince Lucien Buonaparte, who made a large collection of versions of the song translated into most of the dialects of Europe. Mr. Robson died on the 28th August, 1870.

Of his humorous local songs there are many almost forgotten, as the events to which they refer are now seldom the subjects of interest, but others are thoroughly standard productions and racy of the soil—of the Tyne, Tyne. Time cannot affect the popularity of "The Pawnshop Bleezing," "Betty Beesley and her Wooden Man," or "When we were at the Schule," where a well known scene of boyish bathes and battles is portrayed:—

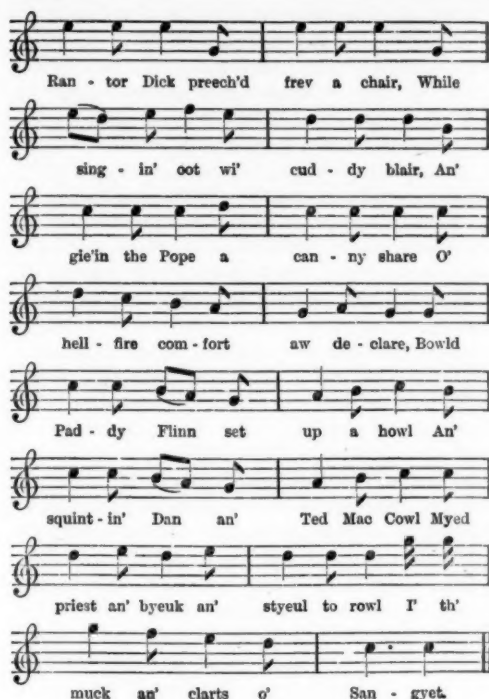
Ye'll not forget the Washing Tubs,
The Burn's Green water pyul?
Ye'll maybe mind o' Tommy's rubs
When ye cam late to skeul?

Newcastle men at a distance from home turn to no local poet with a keener relish when absence has made them home-sick, and small colonies of Englishmen even in Canada and Australia are now and then amazed by the stentorian tones of a brawny Tynesider trying to do justice to "The Horrid War i' Sangyet," or "The Exile's Return," the latter written to the melody of the immortal "Keel Row":—

Flow on, thou shining river,
Thy rolling course for ever;
Forget thee will I never,
Whatever fate be mine.

The tune to which "The Horrid War i' Sangyet" is sung is that once universally popular ditty "The King of the Cannibal Islands," written on the occasion of the visit to England of Omiah or Omai, a native of Tahiti, brought over to this country in 1774 by Captain Fourneaux.

Thor's nowt se bad, aw've heer'd foax say, Is
let feul preech-ors hae thor way; An'
that was prov'd the tuth-or day, Be the
hor - rid war i' San - gyet. As



Nan Dodds an' me an' Mettor Jack
Wis stannin' be the preechor's back;
Says aw, "Ye thunderin' Irish pack,
Dor ye start yor gam' i' Sangyet?"
Then, wi' me neeve, aw shuts a blaw,
An' levels Dan an' Cowley law;
Wor Jack pickt up the rantor craw,
An' tell'd not gyen Popes te jaw,
An' now the bonny gam begun;
The Pats frev oot thor hooses run,
They poor'd be hundreds fre the "Sun,"**
Te start a war i' Sangyet.

They cam fre loosy dens wi' howls,
Like harriin'-man! they cam' i' showls,
Wi' buzzum shanks an' awd bed powls—
Styens flew like shot thru Sangyet.
The pollis cam wi' thor black sticks,
But sum gat fell'd wi' greet hawf bricks,
Then rowlin' pins an' shafts o' picks
Wis browt to de the naytive's tricks.
The Paddies screem'd till a' wis bloo—
"Let's slay the Saxon haythens, zoo!
Down wid the English thaives! Hooroo!
An' we'll be kings i' Sangyet!"

They cam fre Quinn's an' Simson's teet
Fra Ford's an' hooses lang the Kee,
Fre Piporgyet an' Mill Entreef
Te the horrid war i' Sangyet!
The Irish force was fairly quasht,
When on the Kee-side porters dasht;
Then tongs went up, bed powls gat smasht,
An' heeds was crackt, an' windors[†] crasht;

* The Sun Inn, in Sandgate, then kept by William Mason.

† Patrick Quinn kept the Corn Market Tavern in St. Nicholas' Square; Alexander Simpson, the Lord Nelson Inn, in Sandgate; and Michael Ford the King's Arms in the same suburb.

‡ That is, from far and near on both sides of the Tyne.

§ Though now considered a vulgarism, 'windoor' is the original word signifying an opening to admit the fresh air, but capable of being shut when necessary.

Then brave keel-laddies tyeuk their turn,
Wiv smiths an' potters fre the Burn;
They cut the whitebys doon like corn,
An' lyed them law i' Sangyet.

The sweeps now team'd wiv sic a rush,
The Paddies fied before the brush;
Ned Fish's heroes myed a push,
An' blackt the boys i' Sangyet.

Bill Jonsin's croo an' Clark's wis there,
An' Knight's an' Lumley's pack fowt sair;
Jem Frame's boold fre the Cassel Square,
Wi' Blower's Blacks an' mony mair.
The landlord's joined the jolly row,
Bob Carr gat help fre the "Barley Mow;"†
Moor put his Steam Boat cheps i' tow,
An' a' wes war in Sangyet.

Nell Prood chuckt up her three-legged styel
An' lyed it into Dermitt's skull;
An' Dorthy Peg whorl'd round her shyel,
An' splet sum heeds i' Sangyet.

Yung Oyster Bet an' Tatey Sall
Got three greet navvies gyen the wawl;
Bet prickt them wiv a cobbler's awl;
Peg pows'd thor jaws an' myed them squall;
An' when the Pats wis fairly dyeun,
Wor Sally for the pollis run,
An' te the stayshun they were tyeun
For raisin' war i' Sangyet.

The pollis wad gyen doon, aw feer,
Ef cheps like us had not been neer:—
Man, Keeside blud's se full o' beer,
We'd fight the world for Sangyet.

Wor Jack an' me to the Manors tyeuk,
Just sixteen Pats be Scott's awn byeuk;
We seized them like a grapplin' hyeuk,
An' cyeg'd them for sum mair te lyeuk.
On Mundor morn aw fand a' sair,
When aw wis cawld afore the Mare,
An' swore 'twas a' the Rantor's prayer
That caus'd the war i' Sangyet.

To gaol the dorthy trash was sent,
Wi' brockin' skulls an' fairly spent;
They lyeuht like owt but foax content
Wi' raisin' war i' Sangyet.

Noo when we're free aw'll say agyen,
Just let us English foax alyen,
Newcassel lads can rool a "main,"
In owther "seas" or "cocks"—that's plain,
Then let's away to sum yell-hoose
An' hev a sang, an' gan on croose;
Let's proove us Keeside cheps is doose**
The conkerin' bleyds o' Sangyet.

The Streets of Newcastle.

St. Nicholas' Churchyard and St. Nicholas' Squart.



UT of the dim and misty past spring vivid pictures of life in Newcastle to the stroller who, with a fair knowledge of local history, surveys the exterior of the great church of St. Nicholas. Within the sacred edifice lie the illustrious dead, all their worldly pomp and earthly honour crumb-

|| The whole of the chimney sweeps in the town seem to have been there—Edward Fish's lads from Pandon, John Clark's from the Long Stairs, Thomas Lumley's and James Frames' from the Castle Garth, Robert Knight's from Percy Street, William Blower's from Gallowgate, &c., &c.

† The Barley Mow and boarding house in the Milk Market was kept by Robert Peacock; and the Steam Boat Inn, in St. Mary's Street, was kept by R. C. Moor.

** Sober, sedate.

ling to the dust from whence they came; under the green turf surrounding it repose the lowlier townspeople, who lived their lives beneath the shadow of its massive tower, and were probably seldom out of sight of its glittering pinnacles, or far from the hearing of its melodious chime.

In the heart of the city they lie unknown and unnoticed; Daily the tides of life go ebbing and flowing beside them;

Thousands of throbbing hearts, where theirs are at rest, and for ever;

Thousands of aching brains, where theirs no longer are busy;

Thousands of toiling hands, where theirs have ceased from their labours;

Thousands of weary feet, where theirs have completed their journey.

The churchyard of St. Nicholas was truly "the heart of the city." In the good old days it was the common rendezvous of the townsfolk. At its stiles the clergy distributed doles, merchants and tradespeople chaffered, crones gossipped and slandered, and love-sick lads and lasses made their assignments, and perhaps plighted their troth. Round and round its green sward paced the faithful, earning indulgences by praying for the dead reposing below. Here dying citizens who could not hope to obtain interment within the walls, expressed a desire to lie—"nigh unto the throughs within the churchyard on the south side" willed one; "under the thorn tree in St. Nicholas' churchyard" wrote another. Round about it lived men who have helped to make Newcastle famous in art and letters—Thomas Bewick, the engraver, Joseph Barber, the bookseller, Nathaniel Bayles, the eloquent swordbearer, besides printers innumerable; while in one of its corners stood for some years the great educational institution of the town, the Free Grammar School founded by Thomas Horsley. "Lightly tread, 'tis hallowed ground,"



ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH, 1826.

Let us take our stand for a moment at the top of the steps leading into the churchyard from Dean Street, the place where once Nether Dean Bridge, spanning the Lort Burn from Pilgrim Street, had its western ending. On our left, in the recess, is Bewick's workshop, depicted (with a portrait and biography of its eminent occupant) in the *Monthly Chronicle*, vol. ii., page 15. In the opposite corner, to the right, was the Grammar School, and within the railings, at the latter point, we may read the epitaph on the table monument of Joseph Barber, recently restored by the old bookseller's great grandson and namesake—Joseph Barber Lightfoot, Lord Bishop of Durham.

Proceeding onward to the left, we see an incongruous building attached to the chancel of the church. This structure contains the lower and upper vestries of St. Nicholas' Cathedral (now called the chapter-rooms, we believe), and the room which was so long the abode of the Thomlinson Library, now incorporated with the Free Library. The building itself was erected by Mr. Walter Blackett (subsequently Sir Walter Blackett) in 1736, "for the books of the Rev. Dr. Thomlinson and other benefactors." Mr. Blackett also endowed the establishment with a rent-charge of £25 a year for a librarian, to which £5 was afterwards added by Dr. Thomlinson to buy books. The Rev. Nathaniel Clayton was the first librarian under the terms of Dr. Thomlinson's bequest. He "discharged the duties of the office with great punctuality and affability, and the library was a place of great resort for the literary gentlemen of the town." His successor, the Rev. Richard Brewster, took office in 1750, "when the library began to be neglected." In 1788 and 1789 the scandalous condition into which the institution had lapsed was brought under the attention of the Archdeacon of Northumberland, one of the trustees, by Mr. William Charnley, bookseller. Dr. Sharp, the official in question, took no notice of the letter. Mr. Charnley then wrote to the Bishop of Durham. These two letters being published, the matter was taken up with spirit in the columns of the *Newcastle Advertiser*, and the then librarian (the Rev. John Ellison) was roundly charged with "a total neglect of his duty for twenty years past (he had been appointed in 1756, and in 1788 the under-curate of St. Nicholas' became his deputy), and with not purchasing any books during that time with the £5 he had annually received for that special purpose." This public censure had a little effect. The place was occasionally opened from nine to twelve in the day; but as the public knew not when to go, what power to use when there, nor what books were accessible, more grumbling ensued, and Bishop Shute Barrington was solicited in 1801 to interfere. He replied courteously that he had no power in the matter. In 1803, the Rev. Joseph Wilkinson became librarian; "and, during his time, the library was, as usual, completely neglected." In 1815, Alderman Cookson drew the attention of the Corporation to the state of affairs. The

roof did not prevent the rain from falling on the books; of the windows, hardly one was in decent repair. Public indignation was excited, and the library "was partially opened, though every artifice was used to render the visits that were made as disagreeable as possible." Of the absurd rules, having undoubtedly this end in view, it may suffice to quote only one. "It is requested that every person who comes to study in this library come in a white shirt and white neckcloth!" In or about the year 1819 or 1820 "many a basketful of old books had been sold for waste paper." Again the press took up the scandal, and the situation was criticised in the *Tyne Mercury* and the *Durham Advertiser*. Tim Tunbely also scarified the trustees in the *Newcastle Magazine*. Matters, however, remained in much the same state till arrangements were made in 1888 for the transfer to the Public Library of Dr. Thomlinson's books—or rather such of them as had not been lost, stolen, or sorely mutilated.

There is naught to detain us further here; we continue onwards, and at once find ourselves at Amen Corner—a suggestive name which speaks for and explains itself. The real Amen Corner, however, with Joseph Barber's shop, and all the associations that clustered around it, is gone, supplanted by towering offices named St. Nicholas' Buildings.

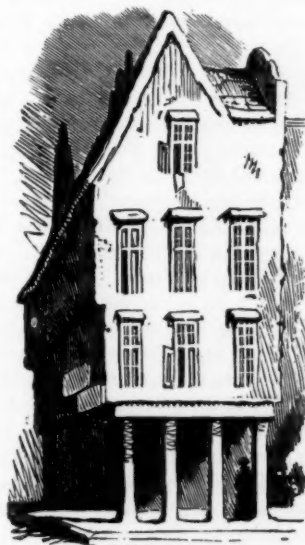
But memories arise in this neighbourhood of some political gatherings that ought not to be passed by altogether in silence. For instance, in September, 1835, hustings were erected in St. Nicholas' Square that Daniel O'Connell might there be presented with an address, and deliver a speech. The chair was occupied by Mr. John Fife; Mr. Charles Larkin presented the address. There was more speech-making in the evening, after a public dinner in the Music Hall, where the same chairman presided; the vice chairs were occupied by Messrs. A. L. Potter, E. Charnley, J. Rayne, H. Shield, A. Nichol, and M. Dunn. Then, in 1838, on the first day of the year, a great concourse of Chartists assembled in the square, to the number of about two thousand, and walked to the Parade Ground, where they were addressed by Messrs. Thomas Doubleday, J. P. Cobett, Feargus O'Connor, and the Rev. J. R. Stephens, the two latter, according to the local historian, indulging in "remarkably inflammatory and threatening speeches." The meeting was held "to demand the abolition of the Poor Law Amendment Bill," and there was an "anti-poor law dinner" in the evening in the Music Hall. In 1839, in July, there was much excitement in many minds owing to the arrest of Dr. Taylor at Birmingham, and Mr. George Julian Harney at Bedlington, on the charge of sedition; and on the 7th of that month a meeting to protest against the arrests was held in this square. Others were subsequently held, almost nightly, in the Forth;

pikes, said to have been made at Winlaton, and sold for eighteenpence apiece, were publicly exhibited in our streets; and a Sacred Month, to begin on the 17th August, was proclaimed, during which no work was to be done. On the 20th June, rioters from the Side attacked the windows in the Dean Street and Mosley Street houses, and those of the Union Bank in St. Nicholas' Square. It was at the end of this same month that the celebrated "Battle of the Forth" occurred; but that came off further a-field, though the square shared in the confusion, as



UNION BANK, ST. NICHOLAS' SQUARE, DEMOLISHED 1843.

may be guessed from the fact that a dragoon, after galloping through the square towards the Arcade, actually rode down the steps of the latter to reach the Manors! In 1840, on January 20th, a meeting was held in the square



OLD HOUSE IN ST. NICHOLAS' SQUARE,
PULLED DOWN 1838.

to protest against the death-sentences passed on Frost, Jones, and Williams, for high treason.

The Union Bank, which was attacked by the Chartist in 1839, stood on the site of what is now Franklin's bookshop. Richardson's "Table Book" gives a sketch of the building when being demolished in August, 1843. To the same invaluable repository of local information we are indebted for another sketch—that of a picturesque old house in St. Nicholas' Square, which was pulled down in 1838.

To talk of St. Nicholas' Square without saying something of the grand old mother church would be an anachronism indeed. But a special article on this subject, printed elsewhere in the *Monthly Chronicle*, has been prepared by Mr. J. R. Boyle.

A Mysterious Mail Coach Robbery.

By the late James Clephan.



STOCKTON-UPON-TEES was thrown into an unwonted ferment of excitement on a market day in 1824. The story went abroad on Saturday, the 31st of January, that the York and Shields Mail Coach had been robbed, a few hours after midnight, of several thousand pounds. As the vehicle stood at the inn-door in the spacious High Street, and the ostlers were changing the horses for a northward stage, a banker's portmanteau was removed, by an unseen hand, from under an inside seat, and borne away in the darkness. Suspicion was on foot on the instant that the loss was discovered, and ran in various directions. One or two local arrests were made, followed by quick discharge, the innocence of the prisoners being made manifest; and while rumour and conjecture were still agog, the newspapers of the district, then few in number, scantily told the tale. The *Newcastle Chronicle* stated that on Saturday morning, Mr. John Dobson, clerk to Messrs. Hutchinson and Place, Tees Bank, in Stockton, took a seat in the Shields mail-coach, entrusted with parcels containing bank-notes, bills, and checks to a considerable amount, for the purpose of exchanging with the different banks at Newcastle and Sanderland. He deposited his parcels under the seat, in the inside of the coach, and, during the time they were changing horses, went into the inn on some trifling errand. On his arrival at Sunderland he found the parcels had been stolen out of the coach, which was supposed to have been done at Stockton. He immediately returned to acquaint his employers; and every diligent search was made after the robber, suspicion having fallen on a person who came by the coach from York, and quitted it at Stockton.

This record appeared on Saturday, the 7th of February;

and on Tuesday, the 10th, the *Tyne Mercury* gave a somewhat more extended statement, viz. :—

At an early hour on Saturday morning, the 31st ult., a leather portmanteau was stolen from the York and Shields Mail, containing bank-notes and cheques to the value of £4,970 4s. 8d., besides bills to a considerable amount, being the property of the two Stockton banks [the Tees and Commercial]. It is supposed the robbery must have been effected about 3 o'clock in the morning, while the coach was changing horses at Stockton. The parcel was under the charge of Mr. John Dobson, clerk of the Tees Bank, who was absent from the mail only a very few moments after (as he supposed) the portmanteau had been safely deposited. Suspicion has attached to a person who came by the coach from York to Stockton, and there left it. He has been traced as travelling post in great haste to Leeds, and, it is conjectured, from thence to Liverpool. Another person, it has been discovered, was coming northward under suspicious circumstances the same morning, which has given rise to a belief that they were acting in concert, and that the man travelling by way of Leeds may have been intended to act merely as a decoy, to engage a pursuit in that direction.

In due time there was official announcement of the theft, with an offer of a reward of two hundred guineas for the discovery of the offender or offenders. The portmanteau was described as containing six paper parcels and a pocket book, in which were Newcastle, Shields, and Scotch notes, and cheques upon the Newcastle bankers to the amount of £4,970 4s. 8d., two memorandum books, and numerous bills, all belonging to the two Stockton banks.

The person supposed to have stolen the portmanteau had walked directly to Catterick Bridge, and taken chaise there in Leeming Lane, Boroughbridge, and from thence to Wetherby, Leeds, and probably to Liverpool. He arrived at Mr. Stott's, Boroughbridge, about one o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Had on a brown topcoat, drab-coloured or blue trousers, blue coat, white stockings, dirty shoes, as if he had walked on the road. He was in a great hurry to get forward, and asked the boy who drove him if he could not go a nearer way to Leeds than by Wetherby, and desired the boy to make all the haste he could. He slept a great part of the way in the chaise. He had a purple bag with him; and the waiter, when he put it into the chaise, felt two or three parcels in it answering to the description in the advertisement.

Below this statement of the movements of the supposed robber was a sort of postscript relating to someone suspected to have been an accomplice, viz. :—

A man more particularly answering the description in the above advertisement of the stolen portmanteau from the mail at Stockton was seen also on the High Street, near Scotch Corner, coming north, on the same day, and nearly at the same hour, as the man [who] was seen taking a chaise at Boroughbridge, and posting away, with all the appearance of hurry, for Leeds. Advice has this morning [February 5] reached Stockton that the man seen near Scotch Corner has been traced to near Greta Bridge, and has probably turned down to Barnard Castle. It is feared that these two men are confederates, and that, having met on the High Street line, one has gone north with the property in the most private manner, and the other south, posting it with fictitious alarm, and only acting as a decoy to direct his pursuers wrong.

Suspicion was astray. It was altogether wrong when it turned its eyes towards the north, and may also have been as far mistaken when it fastened upon the pedestrian with the blue bag who took a post-chaise at Boroughbridge. It led to no detection of the actual offender. The pursuit neither ran him down nor came near him. He

was quietly biding his time while the scent was at fault. The "very few moments" of absence from the coveted prize had been the convenient interval that gave it into his hands, and he was off and away the instant it was secured. Patiently he held his prey, reading the newspaper narratives of his exploit, and smiling over the offer of a reward that fell far short of his intentions. Masterly was his inactivity till the affair had blown over and taken its place among the nine days' wonders with which earth is filled. It was a time when lottery-agents were dazzling eager eyes with prizes of £20,000 to be won by small investments; and the hero of this dash in the dark had drawn a large proportion of the glittering sum from the wheel of fortune—the coach-wheel—where there were no blanks. A man of mystery, who could he be? Everybody was asking the question for a season, and nobody could answer it. Nor, to this day, has the veil ever been removed. Mr. Richmond, who chronicles the occurrence in his "Stockton Records," closes his brief note with the words:—"After a considerable time had passed over, and for certain considerations, the stolen property was restored to the Commercial Bank; but it was never known by whom the robbery had been effected."

The Commercial Bank of Stockton had been established in 1815; the year in which a coach first began to run between York and Shields, by way of Thirsk, Stockton, Sunderland, and Newcastle. The Tees Bank was opened in the year 1785; and Mr. Richmond has an entry of December, 1812, that the poet Wordsworth composed the earlier half of his poem, "The White Doe of Rylstone," whilst on a visit to his brother-in-law, Mr. John Hutchinson, the senior proprietor, at Stockton.

Gradually the midnight mystery of 1824 faded into a dim tradition—a fireside tale of other days—a paragraph of local history for the Richmond Records. But greater fulness was given to the event when Mr. Fordyce brought out his History of Durham, in 1857; and in 1865, Mr. Henry Heavisides dedicated a page to it in his Annals of Stockton-upon-Tees. The writer, having so far proceeded in his purpose, pursues it to the end with Mr. Fordyce's second volume by his side.

Bleak and stormy was the weather on the evening of Friday, the 30th of January, when the mail-coach left York. There was only one passenger—a young commercial traveller, seated inside, and making his first journey. Another came up at Easingwold, and took an outside place. At Thirsk, the guard and coachman proposed to him that he should get inside, and have shelter from the rain. Profiting by their kindness, he changed his seat, but wrapped himself in his dreadnought—turned his back—and declined all conversation with his companion in the coach. At Stockton he alighted, and was no more seen. His journey was at an end. Another fellow-passenger, however, for the commercial traveller turned up. This was Mr. John Dobson, clerk in the Tees Bank, who on Saturday morning was going to Sunderland and New-

castle with bank-notes, cheques, and bills, to the amount of some thousands of pounds, intending to call for business on the bankers of those towns. While the ostlers were changing the horses, coachman, guard, and passengers were exchanging courtesies in the inn. Mr. Dobson, carefully guarding his charge, went to the coach, opened the door, and placed it under his seat. The door was then closed, and all was apparently safe. Seats were subsequently taken; the horn blew; "all right" was the cry; and at a touch of the whip the fresh horses bounded on their way. "All right," thought Mr. Dobson, but he was wrong. The portmanteau was gone. The silent man in the dreadnought, opening one door when the other had been closed, removed the deposit; and it and he were off in a moment. The first mistake of the night had been committed. At every turn of the wheels the town and the portmanteau were left farther and farther behind. Norton and Billingham were passed; through Wolviston went the coach; and at the Red Lion, where the horses were again changed, an old woman got a "lift" for Castle Eden. There she alighted, and the two insides were again left in exclusive possession of the conveyance. They kept it till they came to Sunderland, where the traveller took up his quarters with his luggage at the principal inn, and Mr. Dobson remained sole passenger, still unaware of his loss. But, nearing the end of his journey, he at length looked under his seat, and found only a place where the portmanteau was not. No search could restore the treasure. Coachman and guard were brought into conference without avail; and the disquieted clerk drove home by a chaise and four to tell the tale of his loss. The circumstances were all recalled and weighed. Persons on the spot might have had a finger in the theft; the man in the dreadnought and the young traveller might be accomplices; even the old woman did not escape suspicion. The Easingwold passenger was identified with the pedestrian who walked into Catterick Bridge and posted on to Leeds, where all trace of him was lost. Meanwhile the passenger from York, finding Saturday to be market-day in Sunderland, drove on to Newcastle. There, also, it was market-day; no business was to be done; so off he went to Hexham. At night he was at the house of a friend at North Shields, with whom he sojourned over Sunday. On Monday he returned to Sunderland, his Shields friend driving him over in his own carriage. From Sunderland he came back to Newcastle, where he put up at the Turk's Head. Openly riding to and fro in the district—going and returning on his road—was hardly the course of a man anxious to elude justice; but doubts haunted him nevertheless; the police were on his track; in his most innocent movements suspicion found its food; and to his great astonishment, at his inn in Newcastle, he was put under arrest! The matter came before the magistrates; inquiries were made in all quarters; the high character of the prisoner was clearly established; and he was discharged without a

stain, but not without a pang. His heart was sorely wounded that such a humiliation and indignity should have befallen him. Circumstances had been wrongly interpreted, and he suffered wrong from mistaken conclusions. The real culprit had eluded detection, the officers of justice were at fault; inquiry and pursuit were baffled by the clever criminal, whose whereabouts was wrapped and concealed as in a dreadnought—a coat of darkness.

The bankers, as we have seen, had promptly advertised a reward. Payment of the bills was stopped. The official announcement was made in all parts, but with no response. It left the offender undiscovered. When hope, however, was gone, he himself took the initiative. Like Macbeth, he would not only be "thus," but "securely thus"; he was anxious to make a bargain for a proportion of the plunder, which would leave him in peaceful possession of the remainder; and opening a correspondence with the lawful proprietors of his booty, he said he had seen their advertisement, and was in possession of moneys in some respects answering the description of the property advertised, but the amount was considerably larger. Perhaps there was some error. If so, and what he had in his possession belonged to the advertisers, he was prepared to treat. His terms were £2,000, and £700 in consideration of expenses incurred in three or four unsuccessful experiments for securing the prize. The bankers played awhile with the negotiator, but he was not to be outwitted. He would not move a foot till he had received a bond for the due and safe fulfilment of the bargain, and then he would be on honour with his correspondents. The final arrangements being made, a gentlemanly-looking stranger appeared on the scene, and had a private interview with a principal. The plunder was handed over, the consideration given. Bows were exchanged, and the interview was over. In the chaise-and-four that stood at the door of the bank, the dark adventurer rolled away from the High Street on which he had so dexterously withdrawn Dobson's package; and by an early post the bankers received a case of choice wine, with a cool note from their visitor, politely acknowledging their performance of contract, and expressing, moreover, the satisfaction which it would give to himself and his friends to have further dealings with gentlemen so honourable!

Mr. Fordyce, whose narrative we have abridged, describes the composed stranger as quitting the bank without uttering a syllable. It has been said, however, that when the exchange had been made, he was asked if he would have any objection to say how the robbery had been effected? Objection! he exclaimed; none at all. On the contrary, he was glad to have an opportunity of making known the simple ingenuity of the transaction. The clerk placed the portmanteau in the coach, and closed the door upon it on the one side: he—the stranger—opened the door on the other, and took it out. That was all. Such was the explanation of this pink of courtesy.

Dobson and the portmanteau were never in the coach together. When he went one way, the money went another; and the commercial traveller was not only innocent of the removal—he never had a chance of touching it. A lesson to all of us on the peril of jumping to conclusions.

There is conflict of statement as to one of the circumstances of the robbery. Mr. Fordyce is silent as to the posting-house where the mail changed horses in Stockton. The bankers' "box," says Mr. Heavisides, "containing £8,000," was stolen from the coach "while a change of horses was taking place as it stood in front of the Vane Arms Hotel," the old Red Lion Inn, whose sign had been changed on the 8th of November, 1821. (Richmond's "Local Records.") Mr. Richmond states the robbery to have been effected "whilst changing horses at the Black Lion Inn," and we have always understood that this was the house. The matter is not of great moment, but the discrepancy shows the difficulties of history. Another difference may have a note, and then we have done. The sum given by Mr. Heavisides is £8,000. "Upwards of £20,000 in bills and notes," says Mr. Fordyce. Any way, it was no "unconsidered trifle," but a magnificent temptation for a wholesale expert.

The Chiff-Chaff.



THE chiff-chaff (*Sylvia rufa*), one of the earliest of our summer arrivals, has as many *aliases* as a member of the Long Firm. It is known as the least willow wren, the chiff-chaff, the hay bird, the arbour bird, &c. Its most common name of chiff-chaff is derived from its ordinary note, often followed by "chivy-chavy," so aptly described in the following verses:—

"Chiff-chaff! Chivy-chavy!"

What a funny little bird;
Was there ever such a warbler
In the woodland heard?

"Chiff-chaff! Chivy-chavy!"

On the ear it comes again,
Faint and low, yet soft and pleasant,
Is the gentle strain.

The bird is tolerably plentiful in Durham and Northumberland in summer. "A pretty common spring-and-autumn migrant," says Mr. John Hancock, "frequenting wooded districts where the trees are lofty, from the tops of which it keeps continually uttering the two peculiar well-known notes from which it takes its name. When it leaves in September, the young and the adult are indistinguishable, the former being then as fully coloured as their parents." It will be found occasionally in most of the cemeteries around Newcastle, in Jesmond Dene, and on the wooded banks of the Tyne from Scotswood to Hexham—or, indeed, wherever there are woodlands.

Though found in woods and thickets, the chiff-chaff seems fondest of well-wooded hedge-rows, and may often be found frequenting shrubberies and gardens, where it nests if not molested. It is a lively little bird, and when the trees are in leaf it is often more frequently heard than seen, as it searches among the leaves and boughs for its favourite insect food, which consists mainly of small caterpillars, aphides, moths, and flies, the latter being often caught on the wing.

Morris gives the length of the bird as four and a half inches; weight, nearly three drachms. From the beak, above, to the root of the tail, the prevailing colour is greyish green. The beak, short and slender, is yellowish. Over the eye, running down to the shoulder, is a greenish yellow streak, while an oval band of black crosses the eye



and runs up to the root of the bill. The colours of the feathers inside this ring are slightly darker than the yellowish streak above the eye. The whole of the under part of the body is white, washed with yellowish brown. The wings and tail are dark brown, the quill feathers being a shade darker; the claws rather lighter. In size and plumage the female can scarcely be distinguished from her mate.

The chiff-chaff generally breeds on or near the ground, and is what is termed an oven-builder, the nest being built over, with an oblong hole in the side, very similar in shape to the nest of the dipper. The eggs are usually seven in number, sometimes five. They are about the same size as those of the common wren. The ground colour of the eggs is white, dotted all over with minute purplish-brown spots, densest at the thicker ends. The eggs vary much in the marking, and are sometimes nearly pure white.

A Blind Scholar.



FAMILIAR figure in the streets of Newcastle, along which he used feel his way with a stick or pole as tall as himself, the late Laurence Goodchild was a remarkable instance of what a brave and determined struggle with great misfortune can accomplish. Mr. Goodchild was blind, and had been so from early manhood; yet he was a man of great and varied attainments, a fine classical scholar, a mathematician, and thoroughly well informed in history and general literature.

Laurence Goodchild was born at Pallion, Sunderland, on the 1st December, 1813, the estate at Pallion having been in his family from the reign of Elizabeth. His father was a banker, who failed not long after the birth of Laurence, and the estate was sold. In fact, Mr. Goodchild surrendered everything to his creditors, and had the satisfaction of knowing that, though a ruined man, no one lost a penny by his failure. After this, the family



Laurence Goodchild.

removed to Perthshire, where they resided seven years. The death of the elder Goodchild compelled the widow and children to return to Sunderland, and Laurence attended the school of Dr. Wood, at Monkwearmouth, and here was laid the foundation of his great classical learning. While still a youth he studied hard, and doubtless this hastened his blindness, which overtook him when he was about twenty years old. It may have been, as his friend Mr. Mitchison suggests, the consciousness of his impending calamity that urged him to even greater diligence. At all events he met his misfortune bravely when it did overtake him, and at once sought for some suitable occupation. This he found in the school of Mr. Weyms, at Durham, where he was engaged as classical teacher. About this time he published his first work: "Hoel, a Cambrian

Tale," which is founded on the brave resistance offered by the hardy Welshmen to the warriors of Edward I. Mr. Goodchild undertook the sale of his work himself, traversing with it, mostly on foot, nearly every county in England. Mr. Goodchild was also the author of some other stories, notably "Warkworth," "The Rebel's Wooing," and "Lamie."

The late William Mitchinson published in a local magazine, about seven years ago, some interesting reminiscences of Mr. Goodchild, and we have drawn upon this for a few anecdotes concerning him. His pedestrian performances, when in his prime, were equalled by very few persons indeed. He walked at least four times between Newcastle and Edinburgh, and no less than seventy times between Newcastle and Alnwick; while the roads between Newcastle, Durham, Darlington, Hartlepool, Stockton, &c., were as familiar to him as Grey Street. He has been known to walk 330 miles within a week; but his greatest performance in a single day was from Newcastle to Carlisle.

Mr. Mitchison also gives some illustrations of Goodchild's amazing memory. So ready and retentive was this that, if a Latin word was named, in two or three minutes he could repeat the line from Horace, Virgil, or Ovid in which it occurred. He knew by heart all the Odes of Horace, more than eight books of the "Æneid," the "Lady of the Lake," "Marmion," "Mazeppa," "The Siege of Corinth," "The Corsair," "The Giaour," &c.

A pupil of Goodchild's, a well-known Newcastle gentleman, tells us it was a common thing for the blind man to go to a bookcase and take down a volume, then hand it to his pupil, saying, "Horace, isn't it?" On being told that it was, he would add: "Then turn to — page, and read from — line." And woe to the careless pupil who made a slip or a false quantity! The same gentleman told the writer that Goodchild was very fond of children, a liking which most of them reciprocated. He used to delight little folks with his numerous capital stories and impromptu rhymes.

The late Lord Ravensworth held Mr. Goodchild in great esteem, and had a high opinion of his classical attainments. It was a red-letter day in the blind scholar's calendar when his lordship invited him to spend the day with him at Ravensworth Castle.

Mr. Goodchild was a successful teacher, and was accustomed to boast that no man whom he had prepared for examination was ever rejected. For thirty years he resided in Newcastle, and his tall form, enormous stick, and cheerful face were as familiar as the Grey Monument to most citizens. He had many friends, and but few enemies, as, where he took a liking, "his feelings were strong, warm, and lasting." He was a Tory of the old school, "stern and unbending," and although he did not spare an opponent, and used very strong language at times in his political arguments, few that knew him were apt to take offence.

The blind scholar died, after a very short illness, on the 21st of March, 1881, in his 68th year, sincerely regretted by his many friends, to one of whom, Mr. William Lyall, we are indebted for the loan of the photograph from which our sketch is taken.

W. W. W.

Bear-Baiting.

BEAR-BAITING was formerly one of the established amusements in England, not only among the common people, but among nobles, and even royalty itself. The chief nobles used to keep their bear-wards, whose business it was to feed, train, and carry about these animals for the delectation of their masters and their friends and dependents. The fifth Earl of Northumberland, who died in 1527, had an officer of this sort, whose annual reward from his lord was twenty shillings, as the "Northumberland Household Book" informs us, when he came "to my Lorde in Cristmas, with his lordshippe's beests for makinge his lordschip pastyme." The sports on these occasions lasted twelve days, and were witnessed by thousands of spectators of all ranks. Little further is known of the pastime in the Northern Counties. There must, however, have been a bear-baiting at Newcastle, in 1562, as we learn from Mr. Welford's "History of Newcastle and Gateshead," that among the payments out of the municipal treasury in that year was a reward to my Lord Monteagle's bearward of six shillings and eightpence.

The Castle Garth, Newcastle.

NEWCASTLE was created an independent county by charter of Henry IV., in the year 1400. But the Castle and its precincts were not affected by the grant, and therefore remained part of the county of Northumberland. The consequence of this was that the Mayor and Sheriff of Newcastle and their officers had no jurisdiction within the Castle walls. An evil-doer, after committing an offence in the town, had only to fly to the Castle to be safe from immediate arrest. When the Castle ceased to be garrisoned, and fell into partial ruin, the three and a half acres which its outer walls included became a veritable sanctuary for sinners. This state of things was brought to an end by the charter granted to Newcastle in 1539 by Queen Elizabeth. Therein the Castle is described as "old and ruinous," and it is stated that "many most wicked persons," by fleeing thither, "do often evade merited punishments." For this reason the Mayor and other officers of the town were empowered, "at all times, to enter the enclosure of the Castle, and every house and

mansion within the ambit, circuit, and precinct thereof," except the Keep itself, then used as the County Gaol, and to arrest and punish such malefactors as they might find there.

But the Castle and its precincts were still part of the county of Northumberland. In 1619, one Alexander Stevenson, "a Scotchman, who came in with King James," obtained from the king a lease of the Castle and its liberties, except the Keep and the Moot Hall, at a yearly rent of forty shillings. At this time two houses outside the Black Gate, and two others in the Castle Garth, in one of which the county gaoler lived, whilst the other was the residence of one William Robinson, who was "deputy herald under Norroy, King at Arms," were the only inhabited dwellings within the Castle liberties. After this period, however, the open spaces within the walls were rapidly built upon, justifying the comparison of the Castle Garth, by a French writer of the seventeenth century, to a little city. Amongst the early occupants of the Garth were—John Pickle, who completed the superstructure of the Black Gate, commenced by Stevenson, the lessee, "and kept a tavern in it"; one Jordan, "a Scotchman and sword kipper," who "built a house on the south side of the Gate, and lived in it"; and one Thomas Reed, "a Scotch pedlar," who "took a shop on the north side of the Gate."

The rapid and eager occupation of the Castle Garth is easily explained. In former times the members of the several incorporated companies of Newcastle had the exclusive right of pursuing their various trades in the town. No one, for instance, was allowed to make or sell shoes unless he was a member of the Cordwainers' Company, or had compounded with that company for the privilege. No one could bake and sell bread, or brew and sell beer, unless he was a member of, or had compounded with, the Bakers' and Brewers' Company. In the Castle Garth, however, any one could freely carry on any trade he pleased. This was gall and bitterness to both the trade companies and the Corporation. The latter body, in 1650, succeeded in buying the remainder of Stevenson's lease, which had then nineteen years to run, and during this period the Castle Garth tradesmen had anything but prosperous and peaceful times. As the term drew towards its end, the Corporation petitioned for the renewal of the lease, but were opposed by the county. Meantime, a new lease was granted to Lord Gerrard, afterwards Earl of Macclesfield, for the term of three lives. In 1685, however, the Corporation secured from James II. a reversion of the lease for thirty-one years, and also a warrant that the Castle Garth should be part of the county of Newcastle. On the strength of this warrant the Corporation vexed Lord Gerrard and his tenants with frivolous suits, broke open the houses in the Garth by virtue of the bye-laws of the incorporated companies, seized the occupants' goods, and indicted them for following their trades. One is glad to learn that a

few years later the warrant of King James was declared to be illegal, and, consequently, was set aside.

The third life of the Gerrard lease, however, terminated in 1701, and the Corporation entered under their reversionary lease. Then came another period of harassment for the traders in the Garth. They were fined for carrying on a trade, and fined again for every journeyman they employed. In the orders of the Common Council, under date 7th of May, 1705, we have an example of the way in which the Corporation supported the unjust and illegal claims of the companies.

No tailor working in the Castle Garth shall exercise his trade anywhere within the town out of the Castle Garth, except in mending old clothes.

All master tailors exercising their trade in the Castle Garth to pay the Free Tailors' Company two shillings per annum, and to pay it quarterly, and to pay four pence per annum for every journeyman, the said four pence to be paid once a year.

To carry out these regulations persons were employed to "search" the Castle Garth from time to time, to ascertain how many tailors were trading there, and what journeymen they employed. We meet with such items as the following for many years in succession in the account books of the Tailors' Company:—

1716.—Castle Garth searches...	...	£4	8	0
1722.—Castle Garth searches...	...	4	5	2

The Corporation lease, however, terminated in 1732, and then came another period of freedom for the traders; and before their persecutors could again assert their authority in the Castle Garth the power of the incorporated companies had begun to decline. But for many years afterwards its inhabitants constituted a community amongst themselves. Tailors and shoemakers seem to have been the principal occupants of the Garth. Mackenzie mentions their skill "in translating old articles into new ones, or *vice versa*, as it may suit the taste of their customers." The same writer tells us that the "old, barbarous, and mischievous policy" of the Corporation and the trade companies towards "the suffering inhabitants of the Castle Garth," generated amongst the latter a "kind and friendly feeling," which, even in his day, was not extinct. "Every stranger," he tells us, "immediately after opening a shop, is invited to a general meeting of all the dealers and chapmen within the precincts and liberties of the Castle, at a public-house. Each individual pays sixpence, and the evening is spent in promoting good fellowship."

The crowded dwellings of the Castle Garth have almost all disappeared. When the present Moot Hall was built, many of the houses surrounding the Keep were taken down, and even a larger number were removed to make way for the approach to the High Level Bridge. Now all that remains to show the old-time aspect of the Garth is the short street leading within the Black Gate towards the Moot Hall, shown in our engraving. This, indeed, is all that is now generally known as the Castle Garth. It is hastening, also, towards its end. The hand of time

and decay rests heavily on it, and before very long even this remnant of Old Newcastle will be gone.

J. R. BOYLE, F.S.A.

St. Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle-on-Tyne.



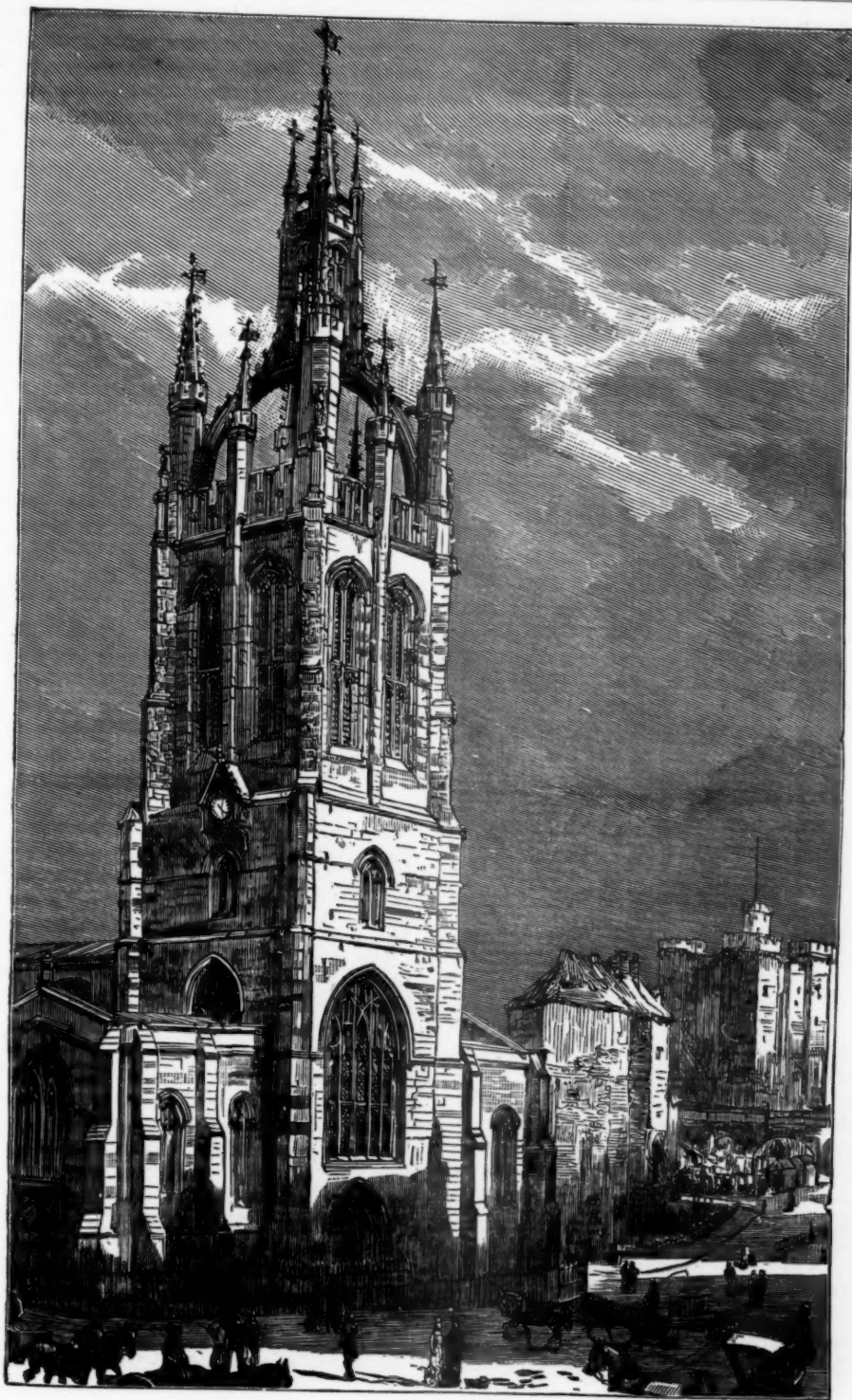
THE Roman Station of Pons Ælii and the Saxon town of Monkchester had both gone down before the arrival in this country of William the Conqueror. When that monarch reached the banks of the Tyne, he found the Roman bridge in ruins and impassable, and provisions for his army could not be found nearer than Tynemouth.

The New Castle upon Tyne—fortress and town—was founded by his son, Robert Curthose. This was in the year 1080. There is every evidence that the growth of the new town was rapid, and its early prosperity great. The church of St. Nicholas, the earliest ecclesiastical establishment within the walls of Newcastle, is said to have been founded by St. Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, in 1091. Although no very satisfactory proof of this statement is attainable, it is certain that the town would, soon after its establishment, require a church, and as we know that St. John's, the second church in Newcastle, was built whilst the twelfth century was still young, there is every reason to believe that the date ascribed to St. Nicholas' is approximately correct.

No part of the church built in those early times



THE CASTLE GARTH, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, 1889.



ST. NICHOLAS' CATHEDRAL, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, 1889.

exists now. It probably soon became too small for the needs of the inhabitants. The builders were again at work about the year 1250. In the churchyard are three or four stones, moulded in a way which indicates that they have formed part of some structure erected about this time. They had afterwards been used up as old building material, and were taken out of the walls during the restorations of a few years ago. Then we are told that in 1216 the church was consumed by fire. Certainly about that period some rebuilding was carried out. If the reader will go into the nave of the church, and will examine the easternmost pillar on the north side, he will find that an older pillar is encased in the present one. This older pillar is clearly part of a nave, with aisles, built in the early part of the thirteenth century. The walls above the present arches of the nave and below the clerestory windows were built at the same time. The arches themselves are much later, but they have been inserted in the older walls.

The nave and transepts were rebuilt in 1359. As I have just mentioned, the older nave walls were partly preserved, the new arches being pierced through them; and this accounts for what is one of the most remarkable features in this church, viz., the great width of the aisles as compared with that of the nave. Ten years later the chancel was in course of re-erection. The old chancel had been taken down, and the new one commenced, without the permission of the Bishop and Prior of Carlisle, who were rectors of the church. They sent a proctor to Newcastle on their behalf. He, on his arrival, found a priest, named Roger de Merley, sitting near the new choir, and "hammering and working on a new stone." The proctor commanded the workmen to desist, and threw pebbles at the new work, and at what remained of the old, in evidence of his authority.

Another hundred years passed by, and Newcastle numbered amongst its people one Robert de Rodes, a lawyer, a man of wealth, and one who stood high in the esteem of the Bishop and Prior of Durham. To him we are indebted for the glorious steeple of this church. Aloft in the vault of the tower we have his coat of arms, and the legend—

"Orate pro anima Roberti de Rodes."

(Pray for the soul of Robert de Rodes.)

Except to a few conventional architects, this wonderful steeple is an object of universal admiration. There is nothing quite like it anywhere in the world. Scotland has two or three towers crowned in a slightly similar, but much inferior way, and the steeple of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, London, built by Sir Christopher Wren, has a very poor imitation of this lantern at Newcastle.*

* Church bells were of service in times of old to guide the belated wayfarer to his home in the night. In Mr. North's "Church Bells of Leicestershire," published in 1876, there is mention of grateful bequests to parish churches by testators who had been befriended by the belfry when their road was lost in hours of darkness.

When we enter the church by its west door, the first object to strike our attention is the font, which is plain and rude in design, but is surmounted by a truly magnificent cover. The basin bears the arms of Rodes,

as well as those of an old Durham county family, the Bainbriggs. Robert Rodes, who died in 1474, had no children. A niece, Alice Rodes, was his heiress. She afterwards married one Richard Bainbrigg, said to have been a member of a family of that name settled at Snotterton, in the parish of Staindrop. In right of his wife he acquired the estate of Wheatley Hill, in the parish of Kelloe, and his descendants remained there for several generations. I believe this font was erected by the niece of Robert de Rodes and her husband, as a memorial of the man to whom Newcastle owes its most splendid architectural achievement.



COVER OF FONT.

Turning into the south aisle, we find at its west end a remarkable alab. fixed to the wall, which has borne a now almost obliterated representation of the Crucifixion of the Saviour. On the upper part of it is a fragment of an inscription, which, with great difficulty, may be read as follows:—

**Our lady prest is bon to say,
At the lavatory evng day;**

meaning that the priest of a chantry dedicated to the Virgin was required every day to say solemn dirge and mass at the altar for the soul of George Carr, and for his wife's and children's souls. The *lavatory* means the water drain near the altar, usually called the *piscina*.

Before we leave this part of the edifice we must notice the recesses in the wall of the south aisle, which, doubtless, were intended for the tombs of benefactors to the church.

The chapel in the same aisle was formerly the chantry of St. Margaret, founded in 1394 by Stephen Whitgray, who, more than once, had represented Newcastle in Parliament. It is now known as the Bewick Porch, for here, from 1636 to 1859, the Bewicks, of Close House

The church of St. Nicholas was not only of service in this way, but also as an inland lighthouse. Pennant speaks of the pathless moors of this neighbourhood in the past century; and many a traveller who traversed them had reason to thank the lantern of St. Nicholas in the nights of old. In the second week of November, 1567, an item of 3s. occurs in the books of the Town Chamberlain, "paid for 4 lbs. of waxe maid in candell for the lanterne of Sancte Nycholas church, and for the workynge." So, too, in December next, 1s. 6d. went for "waxe wrought in candell for the lanterne."—J. C.

near Heddon-on-the-Wall, were buried, and here are the monuments of some of them. But into this chapel are gathered the earliest memorials of the departed now



FEW STANDARDS, ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, TEMP. CHARLES I.

existing in the church. Besides several fragments, there are three mediæval grave stones of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and of beautiful designs; but, as was usual in those days, without any inscriptions. Here, too, is the recumbent effigy of a knight, clad in chain mail, cross-legged, and with his feet resting on a lion. There is every reason to believe that this is the effigy of Peter le Mareshal, who was sword-bearer to Edward I., and who was buried in this church on the 18th September, 1322. Edward II., who was then at Newcastle, paid for a cloth of gold to cover Mareshal's body on the day of his interment.

We proceed towards the east end of the church, and turn into the south transept. Here, on our right, we have the quaint and singular monument of the Maddisons, adorned with many effigies, representing and recording three generations of the same family. On the opposite side of the transept are two windows, architecturally the best in the church.

We now enter the south aisle of the chancel, and immediately beyond the vestry door we have the monument of the Halls, a less pretentious, but very similar one to that of the Maddisons. The Halls and the Maddisons were related by intermarriages, and were amongst the wealthy merchants of Newcastle during the first half of the seventeenth century.

Before we proceed further, we may glance at the new features which have been recently introduced into the church—the reredos, the stalls, the screens, and the bishop's throne. These all embody much excellent design, almost faultlessly executed; but they are none the less sadly out of character with the edifice into which they are introduced, and display an entire absence of that modest sense of fitness which almost invariably characterized the work of the architects of the middle ages.

If, now, we pass behind the reredos, we see a large painting by Tintoretto of "Christ washing His Disciples' Feet." Then, proceeding along the north aisle of the chancel, we enter the north transept, where we find an interesting monument of Thomas Surtees, the last representative of a family which owned the manor of Gosforth from the time of Henry II. Here we may descend into the crypt, formerly one of the chantry chapels, afterwards a receptacle of human bones, and now occupied by organ-blowing machinery.

Many stirring events have been witnessed in this church. Courts of justice were held here in the reign of Edward I. In 1313, penance was performed by one Nicholas le Porter at the doors of this church, he standing unshod, bareheaded, and clothed only in a linen gown, for having dragged certain persons from sanctuary in the church of the White Friars. Here, too, in 1417, Matilda Burgh and Margaret Usher did penance for having approached the shrine of St. Cuthbert at Durham dressed in men's clothes. Treaties of peace between the commissioners of England and Scotland were solemnly signed and sealed here in 1451 and 1459. Here, in 1550, John Knox, the great Scottish reformer, preached before those who sat in judgment on his heresies, he undertaking to prove that the sacrifice of the mass was idolatrous. Bishop Toby Matthew preached here before James I. Here the famed Alexander Henderson preached to General Lesley and the leaders of the Scottish army the day after the battle of Newburn. And when, during the siege of Newcastle in 1644, the same Lesley threatened to fire his cannons at the steeple unless the town would capitulate, Sir John Marley sent all the Scotch prisoners into the belfry, and told the besiegers they might fire away if they desired their countrymen's destruction. Charles I., during his imprisonment in the town, attended service here, and was insulted by the Scotch preacher's choice of a hymn, but the people sympathised with the King, and sung another for which he called.† After the

† The remarkable incident of 1646 is thus related in Sir William Dugdale's "Short View of the Late Troubles in England" (1681):—"A rigid Presbyterian preacher, besides many rude and uncivil expressions in his sermon before the King, called for the 52nd Psalm to be sung by the congregation, which beginneth thus:—

Why dost thou, tyrant, boast abroad,
Thy wicked works to praise?

Whereupon his Majesty instantly stood up, and called for the 56th Psalm, beginning thus:—

Have mercy, Lord, on me, I pray,
For man would me devour."

battle of Dunbar, the Scotch prisoners were lodged for a single night in this church.

No account of this famous church can be considered complete without some reference to Ben Jonson's enigma. The poet had come this way in 1618, on the occasion of his Scottish tour. Gray quotes in his "Chorographia" the following lines as having been written by Jonson concerning the steeple of St. Nicholas:—

My altitude high, my body foure square;
My foot in the grave, my head in the ayre;
My eyes in my sides, five tongues in my wombe:
Thirteen heads upon my body, foure images alone.
I can direct you where the winde doth stay;
And I time God's precepts thrice a day.
I am seen where I am not, I am heard where I am not.
Tell me now what I am, and see that you misse not.

"If Jonson wrote the riddle," says Mr. Clephan, "some other pen than his own must subsequently have made the lines to halt. They are of the 'peculiar measure' of the obliging rhymers who is said to have gone all lengths to please his friends; they present sundry openings for conjectural revision; and we may venture to suggest that at the close of the last line save one, the words were originally written, not 'I am not,' but 'I wis not.'"

J. R. BOYLE, F.S.A.

J. W. Carmichael, Artist.



COLLECTION of engravings from the local works of this eminent artist was edited by Mr. Richard Welford and published by Messrs. M. and M. W. Lambert in 1878.

It is to Mr. Welford's book that we are mainly indebted for the facts embodied in the present sketch.

John Wilson Carmichael was born on January 9th, 1800. His parents lived in the neighbourhood of Tyne Street, Newcastle, and in his childhood Carmichael played amongst the very scenes of which his pencil has left us many a truthful record. Now-a-days, the East End of Newcastle is thickly populated, prosaic, grimy. The houses cluster unpleasantly together; they are conventional; they have neither beauty of form nor beauty of colour. When the century was young, it was vastly otherwise. Rows of brick-built houses, with brown tiles and quaintly curved gables, stretched westward from the Ouseburn; there was no High Level Bridge; most of the buildings on the Quay were still picturesquely Elizabethan. The character of the neighbourhood in which he was born impressed the mind of young Carmichael deeply. When he had acquired facility in the use of his brush, he painted it affectionately and often. He returned to it again at the period of his greatest maturity and power, and made the finest of his water-colour drawings out of the view from the Ropery Banks.

Humble as were the circumstances in which he was born, Carmichael was exceptionally fortunate in his early years. He was apprenticed to Richard Farrington and

Brothers as a ship-carpenter; and as he exhibited great fondness for drawing, his employers, who were men of generous minds and liberal education, afforded him what facilities were in their power to perfect his knowledge of art. Working as an ordinary carpenter for the most part, he was occasionally given a seat in the draughtsman's office, and he found out in many ways



J. W. Carmichael.

that his employers were taking a kindly interest in his career. He was careful, nevertheless, to make himself a good workman. On one occasion his devotion to his work and happy carelessness of consequences nearly cost him his life, for he fell into the river, and was fished out as much dead as alive. How hard Carmichael must have laboured at his art whilst he was still employed in the shipyard, is conclusively proved by the position to which he had attained before he was yet "out of his time." He was already known as a painter of great promise, and had, we believe, become the friend and almost the pupil of Richardson. His knowledge of ships, his close acquaintance with the river, led him to strike out a new line amongst local painters. Then, as now, owners and captains were glad to have portraits of their ships. These works, which were well paid for as a rule, were in general very inadequately painted. Carmichael invented a new style. He made the portrait of his ship as correct as even the most exigent captain could require, but he made it a picture as well. Many of his earlier marine paintings are works of this nature. They are almost invariably marked by great beauty of effect, and by a clear luminosity of colour, which afterwards became one of the most distinct characteristics of the artist's genius.

Carmichael owed his first really effective start in life to one of the brothers Farrington. This gentleman,

Joseph Farrington, presented him with the first box of water colours he ever possessed, and procured for him commissions from the Trinity House and the Corporation of Newcastle, which, in a small way, were then distinguished for their patronage of local art. In 1823, we find him settled in a studio in the New Road, overlooking the scene of his apprenticeship. A year earlier T. M. Richardson had established the "Northumberland Institution for the Promotion of the Fine Arts." The exhibitions were held at Richardson's own house in Brunswick Place, and, in spite of evil fortune, they were continued for a series of years. Carmichael was a regular contributor. His interest in the exhibition was, indeed, scarcely less warm than that of Richardson himself. A large number of his catalogues are still in existence, and their margins contain slight pencil drawings of the principal marine pictures, the shorthand notes of an artist who was studying closely the manner and the excellencies of the masters who were most appreciably influencing his style.

About a year after establishing himself in his studio, Carmichael, in 1824, was married to Mary Sweet, a gentlemanly, pretty woman, the daughter of parents belonging to his own grade of life. The story is told that, as the wedding party was leaving the church, some friend of the artist arrived breathless with a piece of charred timber, a remnant of his studio, which had that morning been burned down. Gay and careless in spirits, Carmichael would not allow this serious misfortune to interfere with the joy of his wedding day. "Well," he said, laughing, "we can begin all over again." And he did begin all over again in right earnest. What he felt most was the destruction of a picture which had been lent to him to copy by the late Nicholas Wood, in recognition of whose services to mining and engineering the Wood Memorial Hall has since been erected. Mr. Wood had been one of his most considerate friends, and he had now a large circle of such.

In 1827, T. M. Richardson, Carmichael, and H. P. Parker were instrumental in founding the "Northern Academy of Arts." By dint of great energy and persistence, funds were procured for building the large room in Blackett Street. Richardson and Carmichael established their studios on either side of the New Academy, and they were both of them large exhibitors at the first exhibition which was held there. Their pictures hung in company with works by Turner, Linnell, Calcott, Mulready, and others of the most eminent men of the time. The exhibition was the largest and most important that had up to that period been held in Newcastle, and was the means of introducing many young local painters to the public. Carmichael had now passed his days of positive struggle. In a catalogue for 1837, the prices of pictures he then exhibited are put down as ranging from thirty shillings to fifteen guineas. This was by no means liberal payment for such work as he was then doing; but

he was an eager and indefatigable worker, and pictures were despatched from his easel with a rapidity which, probably, no painter of equal powers has excelled.

During the twenty years following the establishment of the Northumberland Institution for the Promotion of Fine Arts, many artistic societies were formed in Newcastle, and Carmichael was a member of them all. Just before the middle of the century the old art circles began to fall to pieces. T. M. Richardson, who had long been a sufferer from a painful malady, died in 1847. Carmichael, now in the full vigour of his powers, had, on the pressing solicitation of friends, removed to London. He had paid a flying visit to the metropolis in 1845, and had succeeded in making new connections there. Towards the end of the year he was painting eight panels for the Duke of Devonshire, and by the beginning of 1846 he had definitely resolved on bidding the North farewell. As soon as his purpose was known his friends and patrons decided on presenting him with some token of their esteem. "This made me so nervous," he wrote, "that I was rendered totally unfit for work, as I felt so conscious that it was more than I merited." The presentation—a service of silver plate, valued at £145—took place on March 31st, 1846. Four days later, Carmichael and his family were on their way to London by sea. The painter looked upon the step which he had taken as a serious and even solemn one. "Almighty God," he ejaculates in his diary, "I solemnly ask Thy aiding hand that I may be able to keep my family in the comforts of this life."

Remembering, perhaps, that "God helps those who help themselves," he worked hard and almost furiously. Very frequently he finished a picture a day, whilst also carrying forward more elaborate work. He had invincible courage and unflinching good spirits. Two pictures which he sent to the Academy in 1847 were "skied," whereupon he wrote in his diary;—"I hope to live long enough to make them treat me better." It is quite possible that he may have fallen below himself in these works. He always worked best when he worked rapidly, and of this he was himself perfectly aware. Under date of June 6th, 1846, he wrote;—"Began work in London. After working six days at a sea-piece of the Phantom Ship, I cut it up and put it into the fire." In another place he remarks:—"I worked very hard all day, whether for better or worse I cannot tell. I always find a pure thought of a picture fully carried out turns out better with me than making any alterations afterwards."

It is questionable whether Carmichael strengthened his art by his removal to London, although the wider sphere of work undoubtedly extended his fame. In Newcastle he had been subjected to no strong influences, or to that of Richardson only. He had worked without that restraint which comes of seeing too much of the work, and feeling too strongly the rivalry of others. In London he had many competitors; he made acquaintance with

many styles; and he was very sensitive to outside influence. His work began to be more various in character, and there was not always the same tender quality and freshness of feeling. He was, besides, a little too hardly driven. His expenses had enormously increased, and his family was large. He worked all day long with patient monotony. Now and then he was cheered by such pleasant incidents as one which he records in his diary:—"Mr. George Hudson, M.P., sent me a cheque for a picture and a very kind note saying he thought the work perfect. Perfection is very far beyond my reach. However, I was very pleased he liked the picture." Carmichael had now many wealthy and influential friends and patrons, amongst others the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Bolton, Colonel Stobart, of Darlington, and, most noteworthy of all, perhaps, the late Thomas Sopwith, who made a large collection of his water-colour drawings.

In 1851, he found himself thoroughly established. "Thank God," he wrote on the last day of the year, "I have not been during this year stopped with ill-health or any other cause." These brief expressions of thankfulness are frequent in his diary. He was, too, in the habit of taking stock of his successes and failures at the end of each year, and making brief record of them. For example, he writes at the end of 1852:—"Hard work as usual, with better results this year, and daily enjoyment of seeing friends." One of the friends he saw most frequently was the late Thomas Carrick, then at the period of his highest success as a painter of miniatures. Before anything else, Carmichael was a marine painter. It was, therefore, a matter of necessity that he should make frequent excursions by sea. His first sea trip was in his boyhood, when he was for some time with a transport which was attached to the British fleet, and which was to a large extent laden with gunpowder. During his residence in London, he made occasional excursions to Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, and now and again ran down to Newcastle, as in 1847, when he painted the High Level Bridge, then in course of erection. His most important sea-trip, however, was taken at the instance of Mr. Ingram, who, in 1855, engaged him to accompany the British fleet to the Baltic, and make sketches for the *Illustrated London News*. He was with the fleet from May to August, and gained experience which was utilized to the full in much of his subsequent work. In 1861, he visited Calais and Dunkirk, and brought home sketches from which several pictures were painted in that and subsequent years.

Incessant work and some domestic trouble were steadily wearing out Carmichael's ordinarily good health. He had lost his eldest son in 1862. Three years later we find him still working hard, "amid great anxiety and discouragement, but always with the same gratitude to God and unwearied patience." His wife's health was little better than his own, and the family tried a change of air. They removed to Scarborough, without, however, receiving

that benefit which they anticipated. Though still able to work, Carmichael continued to be the victim of failing health, and on May 2nd, 1868, he suddenly and almost without warning, expired.

Few men have crowded so much work into a lifetime as did Carmichael; yet, persistently as he laboured in his studio, he somehow found time to write and to illustrate two hand-books on marine-painting in oil and in water-colours. These little works are still in large demand. Since his death, his pictures have greatly increased in value, and he still ranks with Richardson as one of the most notable painters that the Northern school has yet produced.

Carmichael was extremely simple and unpretending in character. He always preserved his Northern habit of speech, and had so much difficulty in making himself understood in London society that on one occasion a lady asked him how long he had lived in England, and wondered that he had not made more progress with the language! He had a kindly and loyal spirit, and none of our Northern painters have been more widely esteemed by their acquaintances or more affectionately regarded by their friends.

Early Wars of Northumbria.

IX.

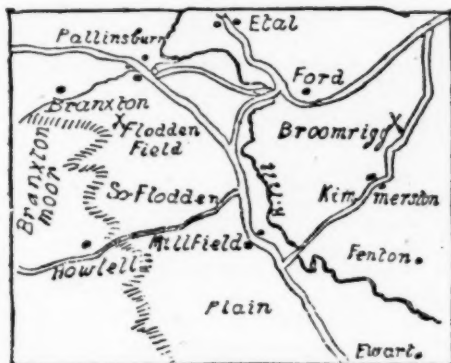
A BOLD BID FOR ASCENDENCY.

THOUGH somewhat curbed by the retaliatory measures of Athelstan, in 934, the insurrectionary spirit of the Northumbrians was not extinct. But instead of acting openly, the discontented people now had recourse to plots and conspiracies of the most dangerous kind. Messengers were constantly passing between Constantine and the Britons, on the one hand, and between the Angle and Danish chieftains on the other. Men having again been counted, and the chances calculated, communications were secretly opened with Anlaf, the exiled son of Sihtric. This dashing leader had spent his period of banishment in Dublin, and had gained considerable ascendancy over a large section of the fiery people who surrounded him. He joined the confederacy with the utmost alacrity, gave directions as to the course he meant to pursue, and then settled down to the work of preparation. The allies were thoroughly aware of the vast importance of their enterprise, as well as the consequences that a failure would entail, and they left no stone unturned to ensure a quick and decisive victory. In small detachments, and as quietly as they possibly could, fighting men journeyed toward the Cheviots from all parts of the land. The Scots advanced their hordes from the North; the Britons teemed out of Galloway and Cumbria; and even Wales

sent strong contingents. While these were assembling in the remote glades and woodlands near the Tweed, Anlaf and his Irish comrades made their appearance in the Humber, with a fleet of 615 ships. This was the signal for a general rising. Men joined the ranks so quickly, from every district of Northumbria, that the combined forces appeared absolutely irresistible. Athelstan's newly-appointed governors did not wait to face the storm. After a few delusive skirmishes, they fled from their posts, made the best of their way to the Saxon Court, and were actually the first to announce that the North had once more thrown off the yoke. One after another the fortified places were speedily surrendered to either Anlaf or Constantine, and when the forces eventually formed a junction, the whole country north of the Humber was in their hands.

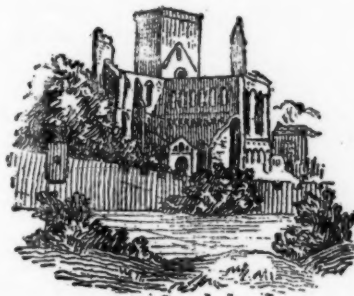
THE SITE OF BRUNNABURG.

But, meanwhile, Athelstan had not been idle. He had gathered every available man from the midland and south-western districts, and, in an incredibly short period, was in full march towards the great centre of rebellion. The locality in which the hostile forces first crossed



swords has never been properly identified. Even the old chronicles are at variance—some asserting that it was on the banks of the Humber, and others that it was in the vicinity of the Tweed. The first impression is, of course, that the allies would rather carry the tide of war into their enemy's country than allow its blood-tipped billows to roll over their own. It is also clear that if their fleet remained near its original moorings—in order to afford shelter in case of a possible defeat—it would be necessary to intercept Athelstan's march before he reached a point at which he could interfere with their means of safety. This is the view that appears to have been taken by several writers, and they have endeavoured to fix the site of the battle at the termination of the old Ermine Street, in Lincolnshire. This, however, is obviously incorrect. Other authorities have striven to show, and, we think, with more judgment, that the scene of the conflict was much nearer the hilly lands of the Border. Having

left his vessels—for the purpose of effecting a junction with Constantine—it is supposed that Anlaf would march quickly towards the North, and aid in the secure reinstatement of Danish officials. Before his departure, his ships would be ordered from the Humber to the Tyne—or, in certain contingencies, to the Tweed—as in either of these localities they would be most handy if the brunt of the expected battle should happen to go against their owners. Athelstan's advance is said to have been made with such expedition and secrecy that he was close up with the allies before they were conscious of his presence, and this may have prevented the due completion of their arrangements. Grose is of opinion that the spot on which the two forces met was only a mile or two from Brinkburn



Priory, in Coquetdale, and immediately on the line of the Great North Road. Traces of fortifications may still be seen on some of the adjacent hills, and there are also many appearances of an old town. This is the place, according to John of Hexham, which was still called Brincaburch in 1154; and, if the name alone is considered, it comes nearer than any other to that mentioned in the earlier accounts. It is quite likely that Athelstan rested here, as he most assuredly did at Roddam, while in search of his destructive foe. But it is supposed by Camden, amongst others, that he had advanced as far as Broomrigg, about a mile from Ford, before the Danes were in a position to check his progress. There are in this locality, also, many well-preserved remains of extensive encampments, and here, it is most generally believed, the battle eventually took place.

A ROMANTIC INCIDENT.

While one army was resting, and the other watching from the higher elevation of the distant hills, an incident is said to have occurred that bears a strong resemblance to the old story about Alfred the Great. The allies, being perplexed by the suddenness with which the King had pounced upon them, were extremely anxious to obtain information as to the strength and composition of the Saxon army. After attiring himself as a minstrel, Anlaf, harp in hand, made his way within the enemy's lines, and began to sing and play before the Southern soldiery. Pleased with his performance, they conducted

him to the royal tent—where Athelstan was dining with his chieftains—and there he again acquitted himself so well that he was “encouraged with much praise.” Having danced, and harped, and sung, until the feast was over, a purse, well-filled with silver groats, was



slipped into his hand, and with this gracious token that the King had been edified, he was allowed to continue his way. His time had not been misspent. With the quickness of a military expert, he had well noted the situation of the King's pavilion, and meant to use his knowledge to the serious detriment of his entertainers. But though he had earned the Saxon coin, he was too proud to keep it. To give it away, or throw it away, might have aroused dangerous suspicions; and, therefore, Anlaf determined to bury it before he left the encampment. While carrying out this resolve, he was recognised by one who had formerly fought under his standard, and it was the friendliness of this soldier that enabled the harper to get off unmolested. But though he had thus connived at the escape of a spy, the man lost no time in acquainting Athelstan with the name of his recent visitor. Thereupon the King, in great anger, reproached him with want of fidelity. “Nay,” quoth the honest soldier, “by the same oath of fealty which binds me to thee, O King! was I once bound to Anlaf; and, had I betrayed him, with equal justice mightest thou have expected treachery from me. But hear my counsel. While awaiting further reinforcements, take away thy tent from the spot on which it now stands, and thus mayest thou ward off the blow of thine enemy.”

THE NIGHT ATTACK.

Acting on this advice, Athelstan's tent was quietly pitched in another quarter of the field, and the vacant ground was occupied, ere sundown, by a body of newly arrived troops under the leadership of Werstan, Bishop of Sherborne. Shortly after midnight, when the camp was hushed in slumber, Anlaf guided a chosen band of followers to the Saxon enclosure, pointed out the tent in which he supposed Athelstan still lay, and then made a vigorous rush for the extermination of both the King and his leaders. The onslaught was so sudden that, for a moment, there was no resistance, and every man on the ill-fated piece of ground was slaughtered. The accompanying tumult, however, had alarmed the soldiery, and, snatching up their arms, they quickly cleared the ground of intruders. The repulse did not trouble the Danes in any way. They imagined that their main object had been achieved, and that, with the death of the King, victory must assuredly be theirs on the morrow.

THE BATTLE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

With the first streak of dawn they were ready for the fray, and no sooner had the bright morning light begun to illumine the landscape, than the different tribes were moving towards the Saxon lines. The shock of battle, when the rival hosts came together, was terrible in its fury, and was sustained with savage bitterness. The bow played its part for a time, and “many Northern wights were shot over shields”; but it was with sword and spear and mace that the issue was eventually decided. There had been discomfort in the allied ranks when the golden-haired Athelstan was seen at the head of his forces. There was terror in the ranks when he now led his stalwart warriors to the very base of the Danish standard. With edge of sword and weight of hammered steel, as the old bards tell us, they clove the bucklers, and hewed the helmets, till the hope of Anlaf cringed before them. “Scottish sailor and Norwegian shipman were fated to fall, and the field was gory with swordsmen's blood.” But the carnage still went on. It had commenced when the sun rose on morning tide—“a mighty globe to glide over the ground as God's candle bright”—and it was only “when the great light sank to its setting,” that the allies, wearied of the fray, turned for the shelter of their homes. Even then the strife was unfinished. The surviving Saxons got themselves together, in linked order, and “followed the footsteps of the foul foe the livelong day.” They could not prevent Anlaf reaching his ships, nor yet stop the headlong flight of Constantine to his mountain wilds; but though both escaped, it was with a sadly diminished following. Five kings and seven earls had been left dead on the field, and thousands of their warriors lay in pitiable heaps around them. The ruler of the Scots, say the chroniclers, had no cause to exult in the communion of swords. “Here was his kindred band of friends o'erthrown”; and his fair young son he “left on the slaughter-place, mangled with wounds.” The Southern loss was nearly as severe, and included two near relatives of the King. “Greater carnage,” it is said, “had not been seen in the island since Angles and Saxons first made their appearance.” But the sacrifice was overlooked in the eternal honour that the victory brought to Athelstan—victory so complete and decisive that has not inappropriately been called the Waterloo of Early Britain. Minstrels sang so eulogistically of the famous deeds by Brunaburg, that the conqueror came to be called the “lord of earls,” the “giver of bracelets,” and to be regarded as a warrior against whom it was utter folly to contend. It was now that Athelstan began to designate himself “King of the English”—a title which the popes and bishops had given to several of the early Bretwaldas, but which had never, until now, been used by the sovereigns themselves. It seemed, indeed, as though a strong master-hand had, at last, been found, and that the country was about to be consolidated under one prosperous ruler. Already the

court of this brilliant king was the home of many distinguished scholars, and the training ground of not a few Continental princes; while the country itself was showing signs of agricultural and mechanical advancement that was far ahead of anything previously attained. Just when everything was at its brightest, however, the king suddenly died, and all hope of continued peace was at once abandoned. As William of Malmesbury puts it, the life of Athelstan was "in time little—in deeds great." It was in all ways a memorable reign—as full of good works as of stirring incidents—and its premature close was justly regarded as a national calamity.

THE DANES AGAIN ON THE WAR PATH.

When the throne was rendered vacant, in 941, Edmund, the brother of Athelstan, was only 18 years of age. He was a youth of much promise, and, from the elegance of his manners and the refinement of his tastes, it was expected that the country must quickly show signs of greater culture. Unhappily, however, he had but little time allowed for his contemplated improvements. He had barely received the crown when the people of Northum-

bria rose in rebellion against him. Anlaf was recalled from Dublin to act as their leader; Wulstan, the Archbishop of York, gave his adhesion to the new movement; and then—being joined by a force of Norwegians under Olaus—the malcontents felt themselves prepared to assail some of the Saxon strongholds. They advanced as far south as Tamworth, took the town by storm, and carried away a large quantity of plunder; but the loss of life that had attended the operation was a source of much subsequent weakness. Having fallen back on Leicester, the Northern force was surprised by a powerful army, under Edmund, and a disastrous battle seemed inevitable. Owing, however, to the good offices of the priests, all further fighting was averted, and a peace arranged that was very favourable to the North. Odo, the Danish Archbishop of Canterbury—who accompanied the Saxon army—seems to have been brought in contact with Wulstan of York, and the result of their deliberations was a division of the Kingdom in accordance with the plan adopted by Alfred the Great. Anlaf was to rule all the lands north of Watling Street—the line between Chester and London—and Edmund had to content himself with the territory to the southward. As an additional inducement for the stoppage of strife, it was also arranged that, in case of either monarch dying, the survivor should reign over the united land. "It thus happened," says Sir Francis Palgrave, "that Edmund consented to disinherit his brothers, and the chance of survivorship might have placed all the English nations beneath the supremacy of the Dane. Sad terms these for a descendant of Alfred; and such as must lead us to suppose that Edmund was either reduced to great straits, or that he was betrayed by his counsellors."

SAXON RECOVERY.

Fortunately or unfortunately for the country, Anlaf died in 943, and Edmund lost no time in sending a powerful army across the Humber to claim the fulfilment of the bond. There were already a couple of claimants for the Northern throne; but as they had only an insignificant following, they were easily expelled, and the country was again under Saxon sway by the spring of 944. Having thus established his power over the Danes, Edmund turned his attention against the Britons of Cumbria. They were accused of having allowed Anlaf's adherents a right of way over their territory, and had to be punished severely for their non-adhesion to the laws of neutrality. The task was beset with many difficulties, as Dunmail, or Donald, their chief, was a warrior of considerable power. In a battle that was fought on the high grounds between Thirlmere and Grasmere, however, the Cumbrian king was killed, the remnant of his army scattered, and his



From Harper's Magazine.

Copyright, 1889, by Harper & Brothers.

THE KING'S CAIRN, DUNMAIL RAISE, CUMBERLAND.

sons cruelly blinded by order of the Saxon ruler. The cairn, which still crowns the pass, at the foot of Helvellyn, is said to mark the resting place of the "last king of rocky Cumberland," and to be near the spot on which the fiercest of the conflict was waged. The territory thus acquired was given to Malcolm, King of the Scots, on condition that he would become the co-operator of Edmund by sea and by land, and the alliance thus formed was followed by a brief, but very welcome, interval of profound peace.

WILLIAM LONGSTAFF.

Brinkburn Priory, though a comparatively modern foundation, occupies a site of great antiquity. It stands on an admirably sheltered peninsula, formed by the windings of the river, and there are still traces of earthworks about the position which are supposed to have been constructed by the Britons. The place was also known to the Cæsars. It is only a mile or two from the spot at which the Devil's Causeway crossed the Coquet, and the piers of a Roman bridge may yet be seen in the bed of the stream at low water.

The groat is only a sample of many coins that were struck during Athelstan's reign. It was this king who decreed that all money should be uniform in value—a system that had not previously prevailed—and that it should only be minted in specified towns. York was one of the favoured places enumerated. It is interesting to note that, although previous monarchs had used the words "Rex Saxonum" after their names, Athelstan was the first to inscribe his coins "Rex Totius Britannie"—thus bearing out the contention of Sharon Turner, as mentioned in our last article.

The "artificial heap of unhewn stone" shown in our sketch from *Harper's Magazine* will be familiar to many readers. According to popular tradition, the loose pebbles not only cover the remains of the Cumbrian king, but indicate the site of the conflict which proved so disastrous to his cause. Similar mounds, for like purposes, are to be found in many parts of Ireland and Scotland—some of them being over 100 yards in diameter at the base, and having a height of 40 or 50 feet. Though "Dunmail Raise" is insignificant when compared with these larger accumulations, it is equally interesting, as it ranks amongst the English mementoes of battles to be found in the Northern Counties. Two or three centuries later, military events were celebrated by trophies that were a little more artistic. It is doubtful, however, whether the crosses and obelisks that mark the struggles at Otterburn, Flodden, Hedgeley Moor, Alnwick, and so many other places, are either so appropriate or so enduring as the rough memorial on the Cumberland watershed.

Windy Monday.



ONDAY, Jan. 7, was the fiftieth anniversary of the great storm in the North popularly known as Windy Monday. The most comprehensive account of the event is given in Mr. T. Fordyce's continuation of Sykes's Local Records, from which we take the following:—

Soon after midnight (January 6-7, 1839) the wind shifted from S. to W.S.W., and gradually increased in fury until about six o'clock in the morning, when its violence was perfectly frightful. It is impossible to describe the sensation felt during this period. Impenetrable darkness veiled the face of nature, and when a sudden crash awoke the inmates of a dwelling, they knew not where to look for shelter amidst the ruin which surrounded them. At length morning dawned on a scene

of devastation such as few have witnessed. Bricks, slates, and tiles, in broken fragments, lay scattered over the streets in every direction, as if the town had stood a siege. No one ventured abroad that could possibly avoid it, and every thoroughfare was literally deserted. The injury done to public buildings in Newcastle was very great. The Infirmary had three stacks of chimneys blown down. The roof of the west wing was almost stripped, and twelve large trees in the garden were uprooted. At the Museum, a sheet of lead weighing nearly two tons was torn from the roof and carried for upwards of 100 yards. St. Thomas's Church had four pinnacles destroyed. Much apprehension was at one time entertained for the safety of the beautiful steeple of St. Nicholas, but it withstood the tempest admirably. The balustrades of the Royal Arcade were completely destroyed, and the glass domes on the roof were more or less broken. The Grey Monument was observed to rock to and fro when the storm was at its height, but it suffered no injury. A tall chimney attached to the brew-house of Mr. Strachan, Barras Bridge, between fifty and sixty feet in height, fell with a fearful crash upon the workshops of Messrs. Burnup and Co., much to the consternation of the men, who, however, escaped. A tall chimney at Elswick Lead Works, another at Mr. Burt's Steam Mill in Thornton Street, and a third at Mr. Davidson's Tobacco Manufactory in the Side, were blown down. The bark mill of Mr. Beaumont, in Darn Crook, also received much injury, the wands of the mill being torn off with great violence, and, after hovering a little time in the air, fell into St. Andrew's Churchyard with a tremendous crash. A shed, upwards of three stories high, belonging to Mr. Arundel, skinner, Gallowgate, was completely demolished. A sheet of lead, weighing 18 cwt. 2 qrs. 14 lbs., was torn from the top of Mr. Baird's house in Northumberland Street, passed a few inches above the head of a person near the spot, and was driven with such violence against the house of Mrs. Coward, on the opposite side of the street, that the glass, frames, and shutters of two windows were shivered to fragments. The inmates, who were in the parlour, perceiving the lead coming, rushed out and escaped unhurt. At Byker, owing to the high position of the village, the damage to property was very great, and a little girl was killed by the overturning of a waggon. The river presented an extraordinary spectacle, and it may be noticed as one of the most striking evidences of the violence of the wind, that at the proper time of high water the tide had not risen more than six inches above low water mark. The Fox steamboat was blown from its moorings, driven against the bridge, and sunk. It is truly wonderful that in such a scene of devastation as the town presented so few injuries should have been sustained by individuals. A female, however, of the name of Hodgson, had her arm broken in consequence of being driven by the wind against a wall, and a man named Hugh Hutchinson was thrown down and rolled over and over like a ball for some distance. There were several other persons thrown down during the day in various parts of the town. In Gateshead the storm raged with even more serious effects than in Newcastle. Nearly every house upon the Fell was unroofed or otherwise injured. The beautiful chimney of the Brandling Junction Railway Company, 115 feet in height, was blown down, and a man named Henry Hawks had one of his legs broken. A chimney at Messrs. Abbot and Co.'s, 75 feet high, fell with a fearful crash, and a man named John Errick was killed, while another person narrowly escaped. Scotswood Bridge was impassable throughout the day, and a man who attempted to traverse it on his hands and knees was blown against the chains and had his arms broken. The destruction of trees in the country was prodigious. At Chopwell, upwards of 20,000 trees were uprooted. Capheaton, Blagdon, Woollington, Fenham, and many other seats were extensively injured. The most distressing accident occurred at the house of Mr. Orange, stationer, Bedford Street, North Shields. Mrs. Orange and the servant were in the kitchen, and what is remarkable, almost an instant before the catastrophe, she inquired whether the servant remembered the wind that occasioned the fall of Mr. Spence's chimney three

years ago, and before an answer could be given a stack of chimneys fell upon the roof, carrying down the upper storey and burying Mrs. Orange in the ruins. She was quite dead when got out; the servant escaped. In Sunderland, the large chimney attached to Mr. Richardson's steam mill was blown down, and two men, named Robson and Moore (brothers-in-law), were killed on the spot, and a third had his leg broken. At Morpeth, the hurricane did considerable damage, unroofing many houses, blowing down chimneys, &c. The Royal Victoria Pavilion, belonging to Billy Purvis, standing in Oldgate Street, was shivered to pieces, the scenery, dresses, &c., blowing about the streets in all directions. Upwards of 250 trees were uprooted in the park and grounds about Alnwick Castle.

The following personal recollections of the casualties which occurred on Windy Monday were supplied to the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* in 1888 by Mr. John McKay, an old resident of Newcastle:—

Windy Monday occurred on the 7th of January, 1839. But only the oldest among us, I imagine, can remember that dreadful day. I, however, recollect all the incidents that came under my notice as if they had taken place yesterday.

Crossing Byker Bridge the other day, I noticed a public-house called the Tanners' Arms, which reminded me that upon its site there used to be a windmill that sustained great damage from the violence of the storm on Windy Monday. It was completely denuded of the sails, wands, and other external parts, and presented an appearance of desolation. Other mills then existed in the neighbourhood—one at Walker (now a picturesque ruin), two at Spital Tongues, or Chimney Mills, as it is commonly known (one still standing), two in the Barrack Road, one at the Cowgate, another in Mill Lane (since partly demolished), one in Darn Crook (still in existence, but dismantled), and sixteen on the Windmill Hills, Gateshead. All these structures were more or less affected, but those at the Windmill Hills were so much injured that they were never reconstructed, and the visitor to Gateshead will observe that some of them have been incorporated with dwelling-houses.

The sacred edifices in Newcastle were considerably damaged. During the whole of the day fears were entertained that the spires of the parish church of St. Nicholas would be blown away, and large crowds collected at the head of the Side and along Denton Chare in anticipation that the fabric would come down with a crash; but the fine old crown weathered the storm, and the only injury done was to the vanes, which were bent and twisted. The Scotch Church in Blackett Street, which since that period has been rebuilt, was denuded of its pinnacles, which fell upon the roof with destructive effect. St. Thomas's Church, at the top of Northumberland Street, suffered extensively. If I remember aright, not one of the pinnacles was left standing after the storm.

As might have been expected, much destruction was caused among trees in the neighbourhood, particularly those around St. Thomas's Church, the limbs and branches of which were strewn about the streets.

Among the dwelling-houses that suffered may be mentioned that of Miss Peters, in the Westgate. This house was the property of the late William Wharton Burdon. The whole of the lead was stripped off the roof, and landed near the Vicar's Pump, which was situate opposite to what is now the Savings Bank, in Westgate. Many other dwellings were, of course, damaged, but I think the devastation was greatest in St. Nicholas's Churchyard. In the Plummer Chare, on the Quayside, I remember, the roof of one of the houses was lifted bodily off. Nearly all the chimneys were blown from the buildings erected by Mr. Grainger in Nelson Street, Market Street, Grainger Street, and Nun Street.

The storm did serious damage to craft on the river. Numerous boats and small vessels were driven from their moorings, some of them drifting down the river. The force of the gale was so great on the Tyne Bridge that it was perilous to cross it, inasmuch as the waves from the river were washing over the parapet. Much excitement

was caused when it was known that a man intended to brave the danger, and a crowd assembled to witness the attempt. The adventurer got on very well until he reached the centre of the bridge, when he suddenly disappeared. Afterwards he was observed making his way on his hands and knees to the other side, which he safely reached amid the cheers of the spectators.

The streets presented a deserted appearance, for the slates from the houses, flying about in all directions, put pedestrians in imminent danger. Moreover, it was impossible to make headway against the wind. Many of those who did venture out were blown great distances along the streets.

Another reminiscence of the storm was supplied to the same journal on January 19, 1889, by Mr. Henry Kerr. That gentleman wrote:—

On the 7th of January, 1839, I had just turned my sixth year, and the storm, it seems to me, was the starting point of my memory—and, certainly, a significant one. I then resided with my parents in a village on the English road between Dumfries and Annan, and in, as I believe, the very focus of the storm, which came almost direct from the west. There were no railways in Dumfriesshire in 1839, nor for many years afterwards—Carlisle being the terminus, so to speak. The South of Scotland was first opened up by the Caledonian, and the Glasgow and South Western was not opened for traffic till about 1848. I have a vivid recollection of the havoc made by the storm in the woods for miles around. The noise of the wind, which blew steadily from the west, was unlike anything of the kind I have since heard; it was a loud, prolonged, and terrible roar, without an instant's cessation. After daylight—and the roaring of the wind was most appalling during the darkness—I watched from the kitchen window the effects of the wind on a clump of trees not far distant. The largest trees (and some of them were three or more feet in diameter) were either torn up by the roots or snapped right through a few feet from the ground. When the trees broke, we could hear the report even amid the horrible roaring of the storm.

The smaller trees bent to the wind, and others, of a considerable girth, were pressed nearly to the ground without breaking; and when the storm abated, which it did rather suddenly, they resumed their normal position, and seemed but little the worse. Many of the trees torn up by the roots brought with them a large quantity of earth, and in some instances they resembled the gable ends of houses. Some tall and thick hawthorn hedges near our house were curiously affected by the storm. For some yards the hedges were rooted out of the ground, showing large gaps, as if the hedges had been entirely grubbed up. In other cases the hedges were flattened to the ground, but the tenacious roots held fast in the earth, and, after the storm had passed, they gradually resumed their normal position, and seemed but little the worse for their temporary "flattening." Several large hay and straw ricks in a farm yard near were blown away, some wholesale and others in detail. The wind seemed to grasp the rick like an irresistible but invisible anaconda. After rocking slightly to and fro in the inexorable grasp of the monster, the rick was launched into the air, and blown away in wisps, like clouds scudding before a violent breeze. Where the corn and hay went to the farmer never knew.

When the storm was at its height, soon after daylight, I noticed a man on the road near our house. The road—the mail coach road—was in a hollow a few yards below our house, and was comparatively sheltered by houses and high hedges. The man was coming from the eastward up the road, and, despite the most strenuous exertions, he was several times completely blown over and rolled back, like a log of wood, several yards along the road. He was finally compelled to crawl on all-fours under the shelter of the hedge, which was so tall and thick that it would have foiled a charge of cavalry. Even in the hedge bottom he was frequently unable to make any headway, as the terrible wind seemed almost to suffocate him.

A neighbour was awakened early in the morning by the outside heavy shutter of the window having broken loose from its fastenings. As it threatened to dash in the window, he hastily arose, and, though the wind was roaring most terribly, he went to the door to fasten, as he imagined, the shutter. As he himself afterwards described it, as soon as he got outside the door he was swept away like a withered leaf. At a distance of about a dozen yards from his door he was carried right through a thick hawthorn hedge (where, by the way, he left his "brooks" in pawn), and then pitched into the bottom of a large hay-rick, fortunately more frightened than hurt. Here he lay coiled up amongst the hay, thanking his stars, no doubt, that he had pitched so softly. In the district to which I refer many houses were partially blown down or unroofed, and some, principally farm outbuildings, were entirely demolished.

The woods on the Rockhall estate (where Scott's "Red Gauntlet" held cruel sway in the memorable "killing time") presented a singular appearance after the storm. In many places, very large trees were torn up by the roots, and in their fall they had demolished smaller trees. Some large American and Norwegian pines, of a great height and girth—and some of them were at least six feet in diameter—were snapped across, a few feet from the ground, almost as clean as if they had been cut by a knife. Some of the forest trees were almost denuded of their branches, while the bare trunks stood up like the masts of a shattered ship.

This terrible storm seemed to be general over a part of the South of Scotland, and over England as far south as Cheshire. In North-East Lancashire it was most severe. It levelled the many high factory chimneys like ninepins. An old Lancashire man lately described to me the havoc created by the hurricane of "Windy Monday," which is termed in the district the "Great Storm." He said, "Eh, meestur, we'll niver see such a 'dooment' till the Day o' Judgment! The factory chimneys went doon like blades o' grass before th' win'." A Cumbrian friend, who has a vivid recollection of the storm, has told me that it was equally severe on the banks of the Esk and Liddel, where there was enormous destruction of growing timber. The fine woods on the Netherby, Naworth, and other estates on both sides of the Border were devastated as if they had been thrown down by a Brobdignagian reaping machine. This remarkable hurricane is best known in the South of Scotland as the "Seventh of January."

Ten years ago (1879) John Rowell, of Twizell, county of Durham, supplied the *Weekly Chronicle* with the following account of his experiences on Windy Monday:—

I started for my work, along with a few others, about half-past three in the morning, having about a mile and a quarter to go, which occupied us an hour and a half, taking shelter wherever fence or rising ground afforded the least cover from the force of the wind, but only to stumble over others either stretched at full length or upon hands and knees. Some laughed, some swore, and others prayed. Struggling onward and onward, we at length arrived at the pit, which no man dared to descend. There were no cages in those days, be it understood, but by hooks and chains we were let down the pit, which made the danger much greater than it would have been at the present day. But our homeward journey was attended with no fewer difficulties than was our journey thither. We chose to return by the railway, and succeeded until we reached a cutting known as the "sandy cut," where the wind swept through with double force, when I sensibly felt my feet leave the ground; and where I should alight I knew not, but dreaded being dashed upon the iron rails. Most fortunately for me, however, I was thrown among sand, where, after recovering a little, I crawled upon my hands and knees to the end of the cutting, and down the embankment to the foot of a thick hedge, when ten or twelve other lads came tumbling over the embankment beside me, crying out, "O, dear!" I, however, had neither power nor inclination to help them, but crawled through under the hedge, and proceeded homeward by the "low way," under cover of banks and

braes, and arrived at Shield Row to hear chimney tops come crashing down in all directions. No one spoke to another on our homeward journey, for few could speak, and those who could were afraid to do so. There were, however, no accidents of a serious nature.

Robert Bolron, the Spy.

ROBERT BOLRON—the Titus Oates of the North of England—was born in Newcastle, and, at the proper age, was bound apprentice to a London jeweller, named Deale. With Mr. Deale, whose place of business was at Pye Corner, where the Great Fire of London was stopped, he is said to have remained about a year, and then ran away and enlisted for a soldier. Some time afterwards, being at Tynemouth with his regiment, he was shipped on board the *Rainbow* frigate, which had been put into commission to fight the Dutch. From this service also he made his escape, and striking across country, found his way to Barnbow Hall, in Yorkshire, the seat of Sir Thomas Gascoigne (with one of whose retainers, a man named Richard Pepper, he seems to have been acquainted), and received hospitable entertainment. Upon Pepper's recommendation he was appointed by Sir Thomas to superintend his collieries—on the Tyne say some writers, but the evidence points rather to Yorkshire—the kind-hearted old baronet believing his story that he had been brought up among coalpits, and understood the winning and working of them. Here he married Mary Baker, a servant in Sir Thomas's household, and might have prospered, but evil genius followed him. He was accused of idleness and speculation, and Sir Thomas was obliged to withdraw his confidence. It was not until, having let him the farm of Shippon Hall, he could get neither rent nor money lent, that the baronet had recourse to legal measures. He brought an action of ejectment against Bolron, and this proceeding so exasperated the ex-soldier that he planned a deep scheme of revenge. Securing the assistance of one Lawrence Maybury, a footman at Barnbow, who had been dismissed for theft, he proceeded to put it into execution.

Late at night, on the 7th July, 1689, upon the sworn information of these two men, Sir Thomas Gascoigne, an old man of eighty-five, was apprehended, taken before a justice, sent to London, and committed to the Tower on a charge of high treason. He lay there, sorely troubled with cold and other hardships, till the following February, and then was put upon his trial. Bolron and Maybury swore that Sir Thomas, Sir Miles Stapleton, and others, conferring together at Barnbow, agreed to contribute large sums of money to introduce Popery into the kingdom, murder the King, and subvert the Government, and that in particular Sir Thomas solicited Bolron personally to kill his Majesty, and offered him £1,000 for that service. The proceedings,

which occupy many pages of "Howell's State Trials," afford melancholy reading. The judges seem to have believed Bolron and his fellow conspirator; but the jury pronounced a verdict of Not Guilty. Sir Thomas was acquitted, and, standing erect and firm, as he had done throughout the trial, left the court with these touching words:—"God forgive them. Let us pray for them."

While Sir Thomas lay in prison, Bolron busied himself with other prosecutions. He appeared before the Lord Mayor of York and accused one John Andrews of being a Romish priest, alleging that he had seen him administer the sacrament to ten persons at Northallerton. He preferred a charge against Robert Dolman, of York, a Catholic gentleman of ancient descent, whose name, he averred, had been mentioned at the Barnbow conferences as one of those who were willing to assist in re-establishing Popery and founding a nunnery near Ripley. He swore also that "being on search with his assistants for priests and Jesuits," he had found in the house of Lady Widdrington a man in bed who called himself Francis Collingwood, and whose trunk contained Popish books and vestments. Then, turning his attention to his native town, he endeavoured to make victims of Sir Thomas Haggerston, of Haggerston, Bart., and Thomas Riddell, Esq., a son of Sir Thomas Riddell, of Fenham. His charges against these persons were that Robert Killingbeck, a Romish priest, being at one of the conferences at Barnbow, where it was concluded to murder the King and all Protestants that would not turn Catholics, promised, "in the name of his master, Thomas Riddell," that he would contribute liberally for the carrying on of such design, and that in a list of the actors and contributors engaged in the plot he (Bolron) had seen the names of both Riddell and Haggerston, with the sums they had respectively agreed to pay. In none of these cases does it appear that the implicated person was put upon his trial; the magistrates evidently did not believe the story which the informer told. He secured one victim only—George Tweng, clerk, of Heworth, near York, a nephew of Sir Thomas Gascoigne, who, being tried at bar, and found guilty, on Bolron's evidence chiefly, was executed with accustomed barbarity. The last case in which he is known to have been engaged, that of Sir Miles Stapleton, was, fortunately, a failure, though, as appears from the record in Howell, the prisoner had a narrow escape.

While his disreputable mission lasted, Bolron was treated by the Government as a person of consideration and credit. The judges were deferential to him, the law officers of the Crown upheld him as a highly meritorious and loyal subject, and the Privy Council went so far as to trust him with a general warrant, which authorised him to enter private houses, at all hours, in search of prohibited books, concealed vessels and vestments, and hidden priests. What became of him after the trial of Sir Miles Stapleton is not known. He undoubtedly died

and was buried; but how and where nobody knows and nobody cares.

RICHARD WELFORD.

Sir George Bowes, Defender of Barnard Castle.

Sir George Bowes he straitway rose,
After them some spoyle to make;
Those noble erles turn'd back again,
And aye they vow'd that knight to take.
That baron he to his castle fled,
To Barnard Castle then fled hee;
The uttermost walles were eathe [easy] to win,
The earles have wonne them presentlie.

—Old Ballad.

IT was in the December of 1569, during the Northern or Nevill's Rebellion—that ill-advised rising of the friends of the unhappy Scots Queen—that Sir George Bowes and his brother Robert so ably defended the Castle Barnard against the Catholic insurgents. For eleven days the garrison stoutly withstood the determined assaults of the besieging army, but on the 10th of the month they were obliged to surrender the ancient fortress. To the credit of the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, the sturdy defenders were generously dealt with, and permitted to depart in possession of their arms, ammunition, and baggage. These two unfortunate noblemen, the leaders in the revolt, were greatly beloved by their retainers and the Northern people generally. Their great estates they had well-nigh impoverished "by doing deeds of hospitality," and from that cause, it seems, they were masters of little ready money. Percy could command but 2,000 crowns, while Nevill had not a coin at his disposal. Being thus unable to procure subsistence for their followers, the rebellion, sometimes called the Rising in the North, speedily collapsed. But the Nemesis—the carnage—was to follow!

"Though this insurrection," says Hutchinson, "was suppressed with so little bloodshed in warfare, the Earl of Essex [Sussex], and Sir George Bowes, marshal of the army, delighting in slaughter, put vast numbers to death by martial law without any regular trial. Sixty-six people ['petty constables,' Hume has it] were executed at Durham. . . . Many others were put to death at York, and some were removed to London. Sir George Bowes made an inhuman boast that in a tract of country sixty miles in length and forty in breadth, betwixt Newcastle and Wetherby, there was scarce a town or village wherein he had not sacrificed some of the inhabitants to his thirst of blood."

According to Hume, no less than 800 persons are said to have suffered by the hands of the executioner. The old ballad runs:—

Wi' them full many a gallant wight
They cruellye bereav'd of life;
And many a childe made fatherlesse,
And widowed many a tender wife.

"The number of offenders is so grate," writes Pilkington, first Protestant Bishop of Durham, pitifully, "that few innocent are left to trie the gilty." Sir George Bowes, of Streatlam Castle, was the only powerful person in the North who attempted to oppose the insurrectionists. No wonder at Bishop Pilkington declaring that in "this county the sheriff cannot procure juries," when all the leading men were either involved in, or in sympathy with, the Rebellion. Fifty-eight noblemen and gentlemen of noble extraction, or of other distinction, we are told, were attainted of high treason or outlawed, and their possessions forfeited. It is, however, with the defender only of Barnard Castle that I am dealing.

Barnard Castle and Manor (the estate of the Earl of Westmoreland) was forfeited to the Crown; and the demesne lands, with some mines, were demised by Queen Elizabeth on lease to Sir George Bowes, who was by special commission made Knight-Marshal, north of Trent, for his "singular services to the Queen." Sir George was the son of Richard Bowes and his wife Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Roger Aske, of Aske. Sir Richard's mother was a Conyers, of Cowton, in Yorkshire, by whom the family of Bowes gained large possessions. She was the wife of Sir Ralph Bowes, and lived to a great age, giving lands and large sums of money to pious uses; and she is remembered by bequeathing, in 1524, a considerable sum for "the purchase of a thousand masses." Leland says that "the Bowes were gentlemen in the bishopric of Durham, long afore Henry the V.'s tyme, and had the chief land and house of theyr name that they have there. . . . Syr William Bowes that was in Fraunce with the Duke of Bedeford (brother to Henry the V.) did builde a fundamentis, the manor place of Stretlam, in the bishopricke of Durham, not far from Barnardes Castelle." Sir George Bowes became the heir general to this ancient family, and the Dawdon estates, near Seaham, and other possessions of the Bowes, in the eastern part of Durham, devolved to him. He was on many commissions in treaties with Scotland, was appointed ambassador to that country, and had other distinguished marks of confidence conferred upon him. He died in 1580-1." A portrait of the famous Knight-Marshal, painted in his 58th year, still hangs, or did hang till quite recently, in one of the apartments of the ancestral home of the family, Streatlam Castle.

Regarding the descendants of the Barnard Castle hero, the historian of the Bishopric says:—"His eldest son, Sir William Bowes, was frequently employed in embassies to Scotland, and was treasurer of Berwick-upon-Tweed to the time of James I., when the garrison was discharged. He died without issue male, and his brother George Bowes of Biddick [Bowes' House] dying in his lifetime, he was succeeded by his nephew, Sir George Bowes of Bradley Hall, in Weardale. But the Streatlam estate did

not descend to him; for by virtue of a settlement, made on the second marriage [the first was to Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Mallory] of Sir George, the Knight-Marshal, with Jane, the daughter of Sir John Talbot, it came to the issue of that marriage, Sir Talbot Bowes. He failing in issue, his second brother, Thomas Bowes, Esq., who was born at Barnard Castle, succeeded him, from whom, in a lineal descent, the Streatlam estates came to the late Lady Strathmore, as only child of George Bowes, Esq. [of Gibside], the last male heir of this house."

The story of the hapless Lady Strathmore, who subsequently married the Irish adventurer, Andrew Robinson Stoney (Bowes), is, though romantic, sad and pitiable, and is narrated in full in vol. i. of the *Monthly Chronicle*, 1887. N. E. R.

Durham University.



ONE of the most interesting transactions in the time of the Commonwealth, so far as the North of England was concerned, was the proposed erection of a College at Durham. In 1650, "several persons of fortune" in the city and county of Durham, the county of Northumberland, and the town and county of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, addressed the Lord Protector, Cromwell, setting forth the disadvantages arising from the great distance of this part of the country from Oxford and Cambridge, and praying that the houses of the dean and prebendaries, which were going to decay, might be converted into a college for the instruction of youth. Cromwell's answer came from Edinburgh, just before the "crowning mercy" of Dunbar. He highly approved of the suggestion, which he recommended to Parliament in a letter to Lenthall, the Speaker, in which he said it was "a matter of great concernment and importance which (by the blessing of God) might much conduce to the promoting of learning and piety in these poore, rude, and ignorant parts, there being also many concurring advantages to this place, as pleasantness and aptness of situation, healthfull aire, and plenty of provisions, which seeme to favour and plead for their desires therein." "And besides the good, so obvious to us, which those Northern Counties may reap thereby, who knows," continued the Protector, "but the setting on foot this work at this time may suit with God's present dispensations, and may, if due care and circumspection be used in the right constituting and carrying on the same, tend to, and by the blessing of God produce, such happy and glorious fruits as are scarce thought on or foreseen." The subject was again pressed upon the Parliament in the following year, by petition from the grand jury at the Durham county assizes; and thereon a committee of the House reported "that the said houses (of the Dean and

Chapter) were a fit place to erect a college or school for all the sciences and literature." It was not, however, till 1657 that "Oliver, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the dominions thereto belonging," issued his letters patent for the erection of the new college. It is a remarkable document, showing no small skill on the part of its author. A synopsis of the proposed constitution, which is too long to give here, may be found in the Rev. J. L. Low's "Diocesan History of Durham." That gentleman says:—"It was in many respects an admirable scheme, not the least of its merits consisting in giving an interest to the nobility and gentry in carrying it out." But the new college soon excited the jealousy of the ancient Universities, both of which protested against its establishment, and particularly against the power of conferring degrees being granted to it. This protest would have had no weight with the Lord Protector, but his death unhappily prevented the completion of the scheme. The provost and fellows of the new institution made application to his son and successor, Richard, for power to carry it out, alleging that it had been "left an orphan scarce bound up in its swaddling clothes," though it had been "planted by a hand which never miscarried in any of its high and magnanimous achievements." But, as is well known, Richard's power lasted only a very short time; and at the Restoration, the new seminary, from which so much good was expected, shared the fate of the Commonwealth itself.

It is a singular fact that George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, assumed to himself the consequence, and what he sincerely thought the merit, of having been the means of preventing Durham becoming the seat of a University during the interregnum. He tells us in his journal that, when he came to Durham in 1567, he found a man there who had come down from London "to set up a college there to make men ministers of Christ, as they said." And he goes on to say:—"I went with some others to reason with the man, and to let him see that to teach men Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, and the seven arts, which was all but the teachings of the natural man, was not the way to make them ministers of Christ; for the languages began at Babel; and to the Greeks, that spake Greek as their mother-tongue, the cross of Christ was but foolishness; and to the Jews, that spoke Hebrew as their mother-tongue, Christ was a stumbling-block; and as for the Romans, who had the Latin and Italian, they persecuted the Christians; and Pilate, one of the Romans, set Hebrew, Greek, and Latin a-top of Christ when he crucified him; and John the Divine, who preached the Word that was in the beginning, said that the beast and the whore had power over tongues and languages, and they are as waters." Thereupon said he to the man:—"Dost thou think to make ministers of Christ by the natural and confused languages which sprang from Babel, are admired in Babel, and set a-top of Christ by a perse-

cutor? Oh, no! So the man confessed to many of these things, and, when we had thus discoursed with him, he became very loving and tender, and after he had considered further of it, he never set up his college."

After a lapse of one hundred and seventy years, the idea of a Northern University was revived. Bishop Van Mildert, the last of the prince-bishops who filled the see of St. Cuthbert, in conjunction with the Dean and Chapter, made application to Parliament in 1832 for leave to appropriate lands for the foundation and maintenance of a University, for the training of divinity students and conferring degrees in other faculties. The application was successful, and the Dean and Chapter were empowered to give up for this purpose an estate at South Shields of the net annual value of £1,710. The Bishop also gave temporary assistance to the extent of £1,000 for the first year, and of £2,000 for subsequent years, until his death in 1836. Besides these benefactions, his lordship gave up the Castle of Durham, for the use of the one college of which the foundation at first consisted. But the intentions of Dr. Van Mildert respecting the endowment were not for some years fully carried out, in consequence of the appointment in 1833 of the Ecclesiastical Commission, whose duty it was to render the property of the Church more available than it had hitherto been in promoting the purposes for which it was intended. In 1841, however, on the recommendation of these Commissioners, an order in council was procured, by which other Chapter estates, situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the city of Durham, and of the average net annual value of £3,700, were made over for the same object. This order attached the office of Warden permanently to the Deanery, and annexed a canonry in the Cathedral to each of the professorships of Divinity and Greek, so that the institution had thenceforward at its disposal a net sum of £5,410 annually, exclusive of the fees of students and other benefactions subsequently made to it.

The University was first opened for the reception of students on the 28th of October, 1833, when forty-five young men were entered upon the books. It consisted at this time of a Warden (Archdeacon Thorpe), a Professor of Divinity (Rev. H. F. Rose), a Professor of Greek (Rev. H. Jenkins), a Professor of Mathematics (Rev. James Carr), and readers in natural philosophy, moral philosophy, chemistry, languages, law, and medicine.

The Act of 1832 had vested the government of the University in the Dean and Chapter, empowering them, with the consent of the Bishop, to frame all necessary regulations for its establishment and continuance. In pursuance of this power, a statute was made in July, 1835, by which the Bishop was declared visitor, and the Dean and Chapter governors, the affairs of the University being ordered to be arranged by a Warden, a Senate, and a Convocation.

In 1837, the work of the institution was completed by a

Royal Charter, which made the University a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal. The document was formally received in Convocation, sitting in the magnificent Castle Hall, which was characterised by Sir Walter Scott, on his visit to Durham, as a room which in proportion and beauty was equal, if not superior, to the finest halls in either Oxford or Cambridge. This was on the 8th of June in the above year; and a number of degrees were granted on the occasion.

Convocation consisted originally of the Warden, and of a certain number of doctors and masters in the faculties of divinity, law, medicine, and arts, from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. At present it consists of all such persons, besides such of the original members as have been regularly admitted to the like degrees in the University of Durham, and have conformed to the regulations thereof. The Senate, as at present composed, consists of the Warden, the Professors of Divinity, Greek, and Mathematics, the two Proctors, and five other members of Convocation, one of whom is elected by convocation, one by the fellows of the University, one by the Newcastle College of Medicine, and one by the Newcastle College of Physical Science, while one is appointed by the Dean and Chapter.

The University now contains four teaching faculties: those of Arts and Theology being carried on at Durham itself, and those of Science and Medicine at Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and, roughly speaking, the number of students at each place is about two hundred. There are many valuable foundation scholarships, private foundations, exhibitions, fellowships, and prizes attached to the University; and there has been a long succession of eminent professors and tutors, some of whom occupy or have occupied very prominent situations.

The University has the power of founding as many colleges or halls as may be necessary. It contains at present one college and one hall. University College occupies the Castle of Durham and the buildings adjoining. Bishop Hatfield's Hall, with its chapel, is situated in the North Bailey, and is in near proximity to the Cathedral, Castle, University Libraries, and Lecture Rooms. The members of each society are subject to the



PROCESSION OF BOATS ON THE WEAR.

same discipline, are under the same tutors, and are eligible generally to the same endowments. The average annual expenses of a student at University College, including those of the University as well as the College, are calculated at £80 to £85; at Bishop Hatfield's Hall at £70 to £77.

No subscription or test is required of any member of the University, with the exception that no person can become a licentiate in theology, or take any degree in theology, unless he has previously declared in writing that he is *bona fide* a member of the Church of England as by law established. The public divine service of the University is that of the Cathedral Church of Durham, but no student who is not a member of the Church of England is obliged to attend the services.

There is an excellent library attached to the institution. It was founded by Bishop Van Mildert, and has since been largely increased by the addition of other collections, particularly that of the late Dr. Routh, the learned President of Magdalen College, Oxford, consisting of upwards of 20,000 volumes. It is accommodated partly in the same building as Bishop Cosen's, which also serves as the Convocation House, and partly in the adjoining building, erected for the Exchequer of the Palatinate by Bishop Neville. With the library of the Dean and Chapter, Bishop Cosen's, and the University library, few places are better supplied with the means of study and research out of London and the two ancient Universities. There is likewise a Museum attached to the institution, and an Observatory besides.

The undergraduates of the University, having this year resolved on holding a Commemoration Day, so as to rid themselves of what they have for some time regarded as a sort of reproach, seeing that Oxford has its world-famous Commemoration, Cambridge its May Week, and every public school in the kingdom its Speech Day and other annual galas, it was duly celebrated on the 24th and 25th of June. Nearly a thousand tickets were issued for the various events connected with it. The proceedings began with a cricket match against Old Harrovians, when the 'Varsity ground, the finest in the North of England, presented a very animated and pleasing appearance, being thronged with students in their many-coloured "blazers," and their lady friends in their quite-as-many-coloured dresses. The match had a most exciting finish, and finally ended in a win for the home team by five runs. In the evening, the University concert attracted a large gathering; and next day Convocation was held in the magnificent Castle Hall, which has recently been enriched with a fine oak screen and a dado of oak. The proceedings lasted about an hour, after which there was a garden party in the Castle grounds, at which was present a large gathering of both University and Chapter dons. In the evening, between nine and ten o'clock, there was a procession of boats on the Wear, to see which the townspeople turned out in great numbers; and a pretty sight it was, as the boats, decked with Chinese lanterns and flambeaux, passed and repassed between Hatfield Hall and the Prebend's Bridge. Several of the gondolas were exceptionally attractive, much ingenuity and skill having been



GARDEN PARTY IN THE CASTLE GROUNDS.

brought to bear on their decoration. The grand massing of the boats took place immediately below the bridge, from which the view was both weird and bewitching. As the craft crowded together, with one containing a representation of Cleopatra's Needle in the centre, the scene was one blaze of light, whilst the occasional burn-

1869, he was chosen to succeed him. The dean has his residence in the College. **WILLIAM BROCKIE.**

Notes and Commentaries.

THE HEAD OF THE SIDE.

Mr. James Hunter, of Ivy Street, Scotswood Road, Newcastle, informs us that the photograph from which we made our drawing of the Head of the Side, page 312, was really taken from a sketch made by himself on the spot in 1877, just before the old buildings were demolished. The drawing, he adds, is now in the possession of Mr. W. Crossling, Lily Crescent, Jesmond.

EDITOR.

THE BIDDICK PITMAN.

Since printing Mr. Boyle's account of the claimant to the Earldom of Perth, which appears in the present volume, page 145, we have received from Mr. Richard Welford a copy of an engraved portrait of Thomas



ing of coloured lights, and the sending up of rockets, lit up the wooded banks of the Wear and the old grey towers of the Cathedral overhead, producing an effect such as can seldom be witnessed elsewhere.

The combined offices of Dean of Durham and Warden of the University are occupied by Dr. William Charles Lake, who succeeded Dean Waddington in 1869. He is the son of Captain Lake, was born in January, 1817, and was educated at Rugby under Dr. Arnold, whence he was elected, in 1834, to a scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A., taking first-class honours in classics. He also obtained the Latin Essay, became fellow, and tutor of his college, proctor, and assistant preacher and public examiner in classics and in modern history. He was appointed by Lord Panmure member of a commission to report on the state of military education in France, Prussia, Austria, and Sardinia, and submitted, in 1856, conjointly with Colonel Yolland, R.E., a report on the subject to both Houses of Parliament. He was again appointed, in 1858, member of the Royal Commission, under the presidency of the Duke of Newcastle, to report on the state of popular education in England. In the same year, he was presented by his college to the living of Huntspill, Somersetshire; and was appointed by the Bishop of London preacher at the Chapel-Royal of Whitehall. On the death of Dr. Waddington, in July,



Thomas Drummond.

Drummond, published some years ago by R. T. Edgar, at 129, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle. The portrait was drawn by Wass and Co., and engraved by Nicholson.

EDITOR.

THE WEDDERSTONE.

This is the name of a stone which stands in a field near the village of Catton, in Allendale, Northumberland. Tradition states that several years ago a notorious sheep-stealer infested this part of Northumberland. He was the terror of the neighbouring farmers: in the first place, because he appeared to be a good judge of mutton, from the fact of his taking the best animal of the flock; and, in the second place, because, although

he had paid a visit to every sheepfold for several miles around, and to many where a strict watch was kept, he remained unsuspected, neither was there the slightest suspicion of whom the thief might be. At length, however, the invisible became visible. It appears that his method of carrying off his booty was to tie the four legs of the animal together, and then, by putting his own head through the space between the feet and the body, carry it away on his shoulder. On his last visit to his neighbour's flock, the animal which he had selected for his week's provision being heavy, he stopped to rest himself, and placed his burden on the top of a small stone column without taking the sheep off his shoulder. The animal became restive, commenced struggling, and so slipped off the stone on the opposite side. Its weight being thus suddenly drawn down round his neck, the poor thief was unable to extricate himself, and was found on the following morning quite dead, his victim proving his executioner. Such is the story which appeared in *Chambers's Journal* some forty years ago.

F. BURY, Halifax.

North-Country Wit & Humour.

THE TOWN HALL ORGAN.

At a Service of Song in the Town Hall, Newcastle, a party of men from Northumberland were among the visitors in the gallery. On taking their seats, the conversation turned on the organ, when one of the number said, "Wey, whor is the organ?" When it was pointed out to him, he said with a downcast lip, "Wey, aa thowt it was yen of them thit torns wiv a handle!"

POTATOES.

Scene: A shop not a hundred miles from Seaton Burn. Enter a miner's "canny dower" for half-a-stone of potatoes. Shopman: "They're a penny up, the potatoes, to-day." Canny Dowter: "Are they? Wey, then, let us hev a half-steyne of yesterday's!"

ABRAHAM'S BOSOM.

Two old fish wives met in Shields market the other day when the following conversation ensued:—"Hie, Betty, hinny, ma canny bairn hes gotten away." "Hes it, Peggy? An' whor hes it gyen te?" "Wey, hinny, it's gyen te Jerusalem's arms." "Wey, is't deed, hinny?" "Aye, is't." "Then, ye mean it's gyen te Abraham's bosom, hinny." "Wey, hinny, ye knaa aa's ne scollard; ye'll knaa the gentleman's name better than aa de!"

SHIP AHOY!

Some years ago, the son of a well-known Sunderland brewer and shipowner, who was blest with a short memory, had occasion to hail one of his father's vessels named the *Swan*, which was lying off in the tier in the River Wear. Having forgotten the name of the ship, he bawled out, "Me fathor's ship ahoy!" "What de ye

mean, ye feuy!" cried a bystander on the quayside. This called forth the rejoinder, "It's like a deuk, but it's not a deuk; it's like a geuse, but it's not a geuse;—me fathor's ship ahoy!"

North-Country Obituaries.

On the 12th of July, the remains of Mr. James Defty, an old colliery official, who had died two or three days previously, in his 83rd year, were interred at Thornley. The deceased, who was a native of Philadelphia, had for many years charge of Woodhouse Colliery, near Bishop Auckland, until it was closed in 1875, when he retired into private life.

Mr. Daniel M'Millan, monumental sculptor, died at Alnwick on the 16th of July, in the 58th year of his age.

On the 19th of July, the death was announced of a well-known agriculturist in the Shotley Bridge district—Mr. Matthew Ridley, of Snow's Green Farm. He was 69 years of age.

There died, at the residence of his father, 21, Lily Crescent, Newcastle, on the 18th of July, Mr. Robert Mowbray, who had lately returned home after eleven years' absence in Australia, owing to the delicate state of his health. Early in life he was prominently associated with the Prudhoe Street Methodist body. The deceased was 39 years of age.

After a brief illness, Mr. Richard Ferguson, a retired gentleman, who was one of the first to build a detached villa on the slopes of the Red Hills, famous in history as the scene of the battle of Neville's Cross, died at Durham, on the 21st of July. He was about 60 years of age.

On the 22nd of July, the death took place of Mr. John Robson, of the Shepherd's Inn, Bishop Auckland, and formerly a tradesman in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle. The deceased took a very active part in the local volunteer movement, and in 1866 succeeded in carrying off the Dragon Cup, which was presented to him on the Wimbledon Range by the Prince of Wales. Mr. Robson was 67 years of age.

On the 25th of July, Mr. John Watson, proprietor of the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, died at his residence in that town.

The death occurred very suddenly on the same day of Mr. Alderman J. W. Robinson, of Gateshead, aged 71. He came from Weardale to Gateshead 46 or 47 years ago. Starting business as a provision dealer in Bottle Bank, he gradually prospered, and entered the wholesale line on a very extended scale. About twenty years ago he became a member of the Town Council, and in 1878 was elected Mayor of the borough. So ably did he discharge the duties of chief-magistrate, that his brother-councillors re-elected him in the following year. The deceased gentleman was also a borough magistrate, and was one of the original promoters of the Children's Hospital for Gateshead.

On the 28th of July, Gateshead was called on to lament the loss of another of its public men—Mr. Benjamin Biggar, J.P., who died, also suddenly, at his residence, Vernon Terrace, in the 68th year of his age. For many years the deceased gentleman was a member of the Town Council of that borough, and also an alderman of one of the wards, but gave up his connection with municipal

matters some time since. He was twice Mayor of the borough—in 1861 and 1862. Mr. Biggar was also an ardent supporter of the turf and of various athletic exercises.

The death was announced, as having occurred on the 26th of July, of Lieut.-General Daniell, C.B., who, up till a very recent date, had been stationed at York as commander of the military forces in the Northern District.

On the 27th of July, Mr. W. J. Malcolm, one of the oldest tradesmen in the city of Durham, and a prominent freemason, died in the 65th year of his age.

The death was announced, on the 30th of July, of Mr. A. R. Lowrey, Castle Vale, Berwick, formerly borough treasurer of that town. Mr. Lowrey, who was upwards of 70 years of age, was a justice of the peace, and had only a few weeks previously celebrated his golden wedding.

Mr. Marshall Cresswell, a local song-writer, died at Dudley Colliery, Northumberland, on the 1st of August. Deceased was born at Fawdon Square, near Newcastle, in 1833, and was consequently 56 years of age at the time of his death. Mr. Cresswell was an active supporter of friendly societies; and it was principally through his efforts that a court in connection with the Order of Foresters was established at Dudley Colliery.

On the 29th of July, intelligence reached Jarrow of the death of Mr. Richard Denton, under-manager of the new shipbuilding yard of Martinez, Riveis, Palmer, and Co., at Bilbao. The deceased, who was 37 years of age, had only recently left Jarrow for Spain.

Mr. Thomas Wilson Batty, who was the representative of Messrs. Bailey and Leetham, shipowners, in Newcastle, until 1887, when he was appointed manager for the same firm at Reval, Russia, died at Reichenhall, Bavaria, on the 30th of July.

Mrs. George Crawshaw, wife of the well-known iron manufacturer, of Gateshead, and a daughter of the late Sir John Fife, Newcastle, died at Tynemouth, on the 3rd August, in the 63rd year of her age.

On the 4th of August, Mr. John Deniston, formerly connected with industrial and commercial pursuits in Sunderland, died at Cardiff.

The death was announced, on the 7th of August, of Mr. C. H. Hines, of Elm Cottages, Duns, founder of the Hines Coal Distribution Fund at Sunderland for the benefit of widows and other needy persons. The deceased gentleman, who was 72 years of age, was formerly a solicitor in Sunderland.

Intelligence reached Hexham, on the 9th of August, of the death of Mr. James Burn, author of "The Autobiography of a Beggar Boy," and for some years a frequent contributor to the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle*. His sketches of men and manners 50 or 60 years ago were quaint and picturesque, and were read with much interest. He began life, as he himself states in his book, as a beggar boy, and, after spending some years as a wandering vagrant with his stepfather, a discharged soldier, he served his apprenticeship to the hatting business in Hexham. Here he married his first wife, a Miss Wilson, of Sandhoe. In 1834, he commenced business as a hat manufacturer in Glasgow, but not prospering in that line, he opened in the same town a tavern known as the Hatters' Arms. Soon after this, he had the misfortune to lose his wife. In the year 1838 he again married, his second wife being a native of Carlisle. When over sixty years of age, he was induced to emigrate to the United States: but, after sojourning there a few years, he re-

turned to this country. Some twenty years ago he revisited Hexham, where his eldest daughter was then and is now living. In 1871, he obtained a situation in the service of the Great Eastern Railway, in which he remained for ten years, until he was eighty-one years of age, when his health gave way. He shortly after received a grant from the Royal Literary Fund, made arrangements for the publication of a revised and enlarged edition of his "Autobiography," and went to end his days with his daughters at Hammersmith, where he died peacefully on the 6th of August, in the 89th year of his age.

On the 10th of August, Mr. Robinson Watson, senior partner in the firm of Watson, Sons, Dixon, and Co., drapers, Stockton, died very suddenly at his country residence, Stainton Vale, Cleveland.

Record of Events.

North-Country Occurrences.

JULY.

10.—Jarrow Town Council decided to sanction Sunday music in the Recreation Grounds.

—On this and the following day the annual show meeting of the Durham County Agricultural Society was held at Sunderland. The exhibits throughout were of high average quality.

11.—General Stevenson, commanding the Northern District, and Colonel Stockley, R.E., visited the Tees mouth, and inspected the proposed site for the battery of quick-firing guns at the South Gare Breakwater.

12.—The summer Assizes for the city and county of Durham were opened at Durham, before Mr. Justice Cave. There were only 21 prisoners for trial. One of the chief cases was that in which David Jones, labourer, was charged with the manslaughter of Joseph Hall, at Monkwearmouth, on the 21st of June. The prisoner, however, was acquitted.

—Mr. James Craig, familiarly known as the Ouseburn hero, was presented by the Mayor of Newcastle with the silver medal and the address on vellum awarded to him by the Royal Humane Society for his bravery in saving life from drowning, this recognition of merit being accompanied by a sum of £65, subscribed by his admirers in the district; while his Worship, on his own behalf, added to these gifts a handsomely mounted pipe in case. (See *ante*, page 287.)

13.—A grand carnival and sale of work, postponed from a previous day on account of the rain, were held at Bishop Auckland, in aid of the Bishop Lightfoot Young Men's Church Institute.

14.—The new Roman Catholic Church of St. Benet, on the Causeway, Monkwearmouth, was opened by Bishop Wilkinson.

—The first of a series of Sunday band performances was given on the Town Moor, Sunderland.

15.—It was announced that Mr. T. Gordon, a native of Haltwhistle, Northumberland, and lately engineer and surveyor to the borough of Leicester, had been appointed chief engineer of the London County Council, at a salary of £1,500 per annum.

—Mr. J. C. Stevenson, M.P., laid the foundation stone of a new Presbyterian Church at Arthur's Hill, Newcastle.

—It was stated that two miners working in the Harvey seam at East Howell Colliery, near Ferryhill, on firing a shot, discovered, among the fallen stone, alive and uninjured, a perfect specimen of the grey toad! The creature was declared to have no mouth, but where the aperture is usually found a dark strip was visible, affording evidence—so the wonderful story ran—that a mouth had once existed.

—The twenty-third annual conference of the North Eastern District Union of Young Men's Christian Associations was held on this and the following day at South Shields, under the presidency of Mr. Edward Moore, J.P.

16.—A new lecture hall in connection with the Wesleyan premises in Beaumont Street, Newcastle, which had been erected at a cost of £5,000, was formally opened by the Rev. Joseph Bush, president of the Wesleyan Conference.

—An inquest was held at Sunderland on the body of Ann Garry, who had died, as the result of an accident, in her 99th year, and who was said to be the oldest inhabitant of Monkwearmouth.

17.—At the Durham Assizes, James O'Flanagan, physician and surgeon, of Houghton-le-Spring, who had on the previous evening been found guilty of having libelled Mr. E. J. Meynell, County Court Judge at Durham, but had been recommended to mercy on the ground that he was at times not responsible for his actions, was set at liberty on his own recognisances, to come up for judgment when called on.

—The body of a diver named Richardson, who had been accidentally drowned while engaged on a sunken steamer, was found by a second diver in Beadnell Bay, on the coast of Northumberland.

18.—It was announced that a new lifeboat, the cost of which had been presented to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution by Mrs. Stoker, of Beverley, had been stationed at Blyth.

—Miss Frances H. Close, of the Kensington Infirmary, London, who had received a medal and bronze cross for her services to the wounded soldiers during the Egyptian campaign, was appointed matron and superintendent of nurses at the Newcastle Infirmary.

19.—It was announced that, by a large majority, the Durham miners had refused to accept the terms offered by the masters, which included an immediate advance of 5 per cent., and further increase of 5 per cent. in three months' time, with an inquiry into the condition of the coal trade at the expiration of the second three months, so that if a further increase were warranted it would be conceded. An advance of 2½ per cent. on wages was officially made known under the sliding scale arrangement, of which this was the last declaration. The Durham miners having, by a large majority, rejected the original offer of two advances of 5 per cent., the masters eventually offered an immediate advance of 10 per cent., and this the men agreed, by a small majority, to accept. A strike was consequently avoided.

—At a meeting of working men in Newcastle, a Radical Association was formed for Newcastle and Gateshead, and a committee was appointed to draw up a programme for the new organization.

20.—At York Assizes, a verdict, with £50 damages, was awarded to Mr. Edward Clark, solicitor, Newcastle, as plaintiff in an action for libel against Mr. E. R. Ship-

ton, secretary of the Cyclists' Touring Club, and editor of the *Monthly Gazette and Official Record*.

—An exhibition of the articles of co-operative manufacture was opened by Mr. H. R. Bailey, at Morpeth, the principal speaker on the occasion being the Marquis of Ripon.

21.—The first of a series of Sunday sacred concerts was held in Rockliff Cricket Ground, Whitley.

22.—It was announced that the Bishop of Durham had appointed the Rev. Herbert Kynaston, D.D., late Principal of Cheltenham College, to the vacant Professorship of Greek at Durham University. On the 8th of August, Dr. Kynaston was installed as a Canon of Durham Cathedral.

—M. Charles de Lesseps, vice-president of the Suez Canal Company, and son of the eminent French engineer, visited Sunderland as the guest of Mr. James Laing, chairman of the River Wear Commission; and on the following day he laid a large block on the new pier in course of construction by the Commissioners at Roker.

23.—In prosecution of a tour which he was making through Europe, the Shah of Persia, accompanied by a large suite, arrived at Rothbury from Edinburgh, and was received by Lord Armstrong, whose guest he remained



over the night at Craggside. On the following morning, his Majesty and party proceeded by special train to Newcastle, which was reached shortly before one o'clock. The Shah, on alighting, was officially received by the Mayor on behalf of the Corporation, a large number of

the members of which, including the Sheriff, and other officials, as well as a crowd of the general public, were present on the railway platform. A suitable address, read by the Town Clerk, was presented to his Majesty, who, in replying, said he appreciated very much the welcome which had been tendered to him. The Shah and attendants were then driven in carriages through the city, and ultimately to the Elswick Works of Sir W. G. Armstrong and Co., of which, after luncheon in the offices of the company, a complete inspection was made. The Shah and party departed for Bradford between four and five o'clock.

—A severe thunderstorm passed over Newcastle and district.

24.—Mr. U. A. Ritson, J.P., Newcastle, laid the foundation stone of a class-room intended to be added to the Wesleyan Sunday School at Castleside.

—The property and plant of the North Shields and District Tramway Company were publicly sold for £1,800.

—An interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum was declared by the directors of the Newcastle and Gosforth Tramways and Carriage Company, Limited.

25.—It was announced that out of a sum of £15,000 awarded by the Government for the support of University Colleges in Great Britain, £1,200 would be granted to the Durham University College of Science in Newcastle.

—For the first time in the history of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, its annual show was opened at Tynemouth, and extended over three days. The total number of visitors was 19,372, and the receipts for admissions amounted to £986 4s. 6d.

—The back portion of the Black Boy Inn, situated in the Groat Market, Newcastle, suddenly fell down, burying in the ruins two women, who were afterwards rescued with difficulty.

—The fifty-sixth annual show of the Cleveland Agricultural Society was held at South Stockton.

27.—The various friendly Societies in Consett and district held a united demonstration in the grounds of Shotley Spa, in aid of a fund to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Jonathan Priestman, J.P., by enabling poor and necessitous persons to be sent to the Whitley and other convalescent homes.

—A license was granted to the Tyne Theatre by the Finance Committee of the Newcastle Council, instead of by the magistrates, as formerly, the change being brought about by the new Local Government Act.

28.—A new Roman Catholic school-chapel was opened at Tyne Dock.

30.—By invitation of the Mayor and Mayoress of Newcastle (Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Richardson), about a thousand ladies and gentlemen attended an enjoyable garden party in Jesmond Dene.

—In the Court of Appeal, constituted by the Master of the Rolls (Lord Esher), Lord Justice Lindley, and Lord Justice Bowen, the appeal of the Byker Bridge Company in the case of the Attorney-General v. the Corporation of Newcastle, was argued. Their lordships, on August 9th, dismissed the appeal.

31.—A disastrous fire occurred in the large bonded stores of Messrs. Crisp and Robinson, Mill Dam, South Shields.

—An amicable settlement as to wages was effected between the Cleveland mineowners and their men.

—Mr. George Hannay laid the foundation stone of new Sunday schools and an extension of the church, in connection with St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Westoe Lane, South Shields.

—The first annual show of the Berwick and Border Kennel Club was held at Berwick.

AUGUST.

1.—An agitation against the price of meat was initiated at Murton Colliery.

—A destructive fire broke out at the shipyard of Messrs. J. L. Thompson and Sons, North Sands, Sunderland, the damage being estimated at £1,000.

—A very disorderly meeting was held in connection with the recently formed Newcastle and Gateshead Radical Association.

2.—The annual inspection of the Northumberland Hussars was made on Newcastle Town Moor, by Colonel Duncombe, who said he would be very happy to report favourably of the regiment.

—At Seaham Harbour, late at night, a little girl named Caroline Winter, eight years old, was decoyed by a shabbily-dressed stranger to a lonely cave on the sea-beach, where she was outraged and murdered. No trace of the murderer has, up till now, been detected.

3.—William and Francis Garrison, two sons of the late William Lloyd Garrison, the eminent anti-slavery advocate, passed through Newcastle *en route* for Edinburgh.

—The Victoria Jubilee Infirmary, Tynemouth, the foundation-stone of which was laid amid the rejoicings of Jubilee Day, was opened by Earl Percy.

—Captain Wiggins, of Sunderland, sailed from St. Katharine's Dock, London, in command of the steamer Labrador, bound for the river Yenesei, Siberia, by way of the Kara Sea.

4.—The steamer Triumph, which had lain embedded at the mouth of the Tyne since its collision with the Spanish steamer Rivas, on the 22nd of October, 1888, was successfully floated by a Hamburg firm of salvors.

5.—It was announced that the will of Mr. John Milling, draper, of Newcastle, and of Harlow Manor, Harrogate, had been sworn at £71,806 16s. 7d.

—It was reported that by the general order to the Royal Artillery, just issued, in order to reconstitute the great regiment, the northern regular brigade of the batteries would be abolished in common with several other brigades.

—The cycling track at the Recreation Ground, Moor Edge, Newcastle, was opened in the presence of Mr. Alderman Hamond and several other members of the City Council.

—The Merrybent and Darlington Railway was offered for sale by public auction, but no bid was made.

—The annual meeting of the Northern Union of Mechanics' Institutes was held at Newburn, under the presidency of Mr. John Watson Spencer.

—A new Congregational Hall was opened at the village of Winlaton.

—The twenty-third annual Legislative Council of the British United Order of Oddfellows was held in Newcastle, under the presidency of Mr. Henry Gregory, Grand Master, Chesterfield.

—The autumn meeting of the Institute of British Carriage Manufacturers was opened in Newcastle, the pro-

ceedings, which lasted two days, being presided over by Mr. G. N. Hooper, of London.

6.—The Cleveland ironmasters decided to grant to the blastfurnacemen an advance in wages of 4 per cent. above the sliding scale allowance, making an increase of 5 per cent. above the standard rate.

—The Royal Scotch Arms Hotel, Newgate Street, Newcastle, was sold by public auction to Mr. Farquhar Laing, for £19,000.

7.—By a majority of 25 against 22, the Newcastle City Council decided against the introduction of sacred music into the public parks or recreation grounds on Sundays.

8.—Mr. Alfred Cradock, a member of the Civil Service, and son of Mr. Joseph Cradock, of Stockton, wholesale grocer, was out rabbit shooting in the neighbourhood of London, when a twig caught the trigger of his gun, and the weapon exploded. The charge lodged in Mr. Cradock's head, and killed him.

9.—It was stated that probate of the will, dated 26th January, 1888, of the late Mr. Jonathan Priestman, J.P., of Derwent Lodge, Shotley Bridge, Durham, colliery owner, who died on 21st December last, aged 63 years, had been granted, the value of the personalty being affirmed at £97,945 6s. 1d. The will, dated 1st March, 1856, with codocils made the 24th March, 20th August, and 4th December, 1888, of the late Mrs. Jane Frances Maynard, of 4, South Park Road, Harrogate, who died on 4th May last, and was the widow of Mr. Thomas Christopher Maynard, of Durham, solicitor, was also proved about the same time, the personalty being valued at £7,403 4s. 6d.

—It was announced that Mr. John H. Amos, formerly Committee Clerk under the Corporation of Newcastle, had been appointed Chief Clerk to the Tees Conservancy Commissioners, *vice* Mr. Joseph Dodds, at a salary of £800 per annum.

—At the half-yearly meeting of the North-Eastern Railway Company, a dividend of 6½ per cent. was declared; and a sum of £500 was voted to the Stephenson engineering department of the Durham College of Science in Newcastle.

10.—Thornley Colliery, after a suspension of operations for five years, was re-started under the ownership of the Weardale Iron and Coal Company.

General Occurrences.

JULY.

12.—The death was reported of Signor Giovanni Bottesini, musical composer, and a noted performer on the contrabass.

16.—Sergeant Reid, of Glasgow, won the Queen's Prize at the National Rifle Association's meeting at Wembleton.

—A young man named Lennox went up in a balloon at Manchester with a parachutist. The latter came down safely, but the balloon collapsed, and Lennox was killed.

17.—Another horrible murder was perpetrated in Whitechapel, London, presumably by the person known as "Jack the Ripper." The victim, who was horribly mutilated, was a washerwoman named Alice Mackenzie, about forty years old. No clue to the murderer was obtained.

—Death of Lord Ashburton (Alexander Hugh Baring), after a sudden illness, aged 54 years.

—A workmen's congress was commenced in Paris, and continued for several days.

—The result of an election for West Carmarthenshire was as follows:—Lloyd Morgan (Gladstonian), 4,252; Williams Drummond (Conservative), 2,533; majority, 1,719.

19.—The result of East Marylebone election, caused by the resignation of Lord Charles Beresford, was as follows:—E. Boulnois (Conservative), 2,579; G. G. Leveson-Gower (Gladstonian), 2,086; majority, 493.

—Mr. Parnell, leader of the Irish party in the British House of Commons, paid a visit to Edinburgh, when the freedom of the city was presented to him.

—An action for slander by Mr. William O'Brien, M.P., against the Marquis of Salisbury, Prime Minister, was commenced at Manchester. The plaintiff claimed £10,000 damages. After the case had occupied the attention of the court for several days, a verdict for the defendant was returned.

25.—In the House of Commons, Mr. W. H. Smith proposed that a grant of £36,000 be made to the Prince of Wales for the benefit of his family. After an important discussion, the proposal was carried.

27.—Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise Victoria Alexandra Dagmar, eldest daughter of the Prince and Princess of Wales, was married at Buckingham Palace to Alexander William George, Duke of Fife.

30.—A co-operative demonstration, promoted by the executive committee of No. 3 section of the Co-operative Union, was held at Keswick.

31.—The trial of Mrs. Maybrick, on a charge of having murdered her husband, Mr. James Maybrick, by arsenical poisoning, was commenced at Liverpool Assizes. On August 7 the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to death. The verdict was received with extraordinary demonstrations of disapproval.

—The Marquis of Salisbury, Prime Minister, was the principal speaker at the annual banquet given by the Lord Mayor of London to her Majesty's Ministers.

—Death of Admiral Baillie, of Dryburgh Abbey, Kelso; and of Dr. Horatius Bonar, a well-known hymn writer, aged 81.

The Parnell Commission was continued during July. On the 16th, Sir Charles Russell and the other counsel for the Irish party withdrew from the case. On the 25th, the 112th day, all the witnesses had given evidence, and Sir Henry James asked for an adjournment in order that he might have time to prepare his speech. The court adjourned until the 24th of October.

AUGUST.

1.—News was received of a terrible fire which occurred at Loochow, China, on June 27, and lasted for three days, during which 87,000 dwellings were destroyed, and 1,200 persons were burned to death. 170,000 individuals were obliged to camp out for shelter, and many of these died from want and exposure.

3.—The Emperor of Germany arrived at Spithead, and was to have been present at a grand review of the British fleet, numbering 20 armourclads, 35 cruisers, 18 gunboats, and 38 smaller vessels—the largest fleet ever gathered together in English waters; but, owing to the inclement weather, the ceremony was postponed until the 5th, when everything passed off with success.

—A force of Egyptian and British soldiers, under

General Grenfell, completely routed the dervishes at Toski, Soudan, who were marching northward with the object of attacking Egypt. Wad-el-Njumi, the commander of the dervishes, twelve of his emirs, and fifteen hundred fighting men, were killed, while a thousand prisoners were taken. The British and Egyptian loss amounted to 17 killed and 131 wounded.

5.—Death of M. Felix Pyat, a well-known French revolutionist.

—The remains of Carnot, Marceau, La Tour d'Auvergne, and Baudin, French heroes, having been disinterred,

were deposited with much ceremony in the Pantheon, Paris.

—The town of Spokane Falls, Washington Territory, United States, was destroyed by fire. The damage was estimated at 15,000,000 dollars.

7.—An Afghan soldier fired at the Ameer of Afghanistan, and wounded him in the head.

8.—Death of Benedetto Cairoli, Italian patriot, at Naples, aged 63.

—Death of Mr. W. R. S. Ralston, a well-known writer on Russian subjects, from an overdose of chloral, aged 60.

MILLET'S "ANGELUS."

"The Angelus," a celebrated picture by the great French painter, Jean François Millet, which fetched the extraordinary price of £22,120 at the sale of the Secrétan collection in Paris on July 1, has since passed into the hands of American dealers, owing to the refusal of the French Government to purchase it for the French nation. Millet, who died in 1875 at the age of sixty, devoted himself mainly to the representation of actual life among the French peasantry. He was born of a peasant family,

near Cherbourg, and lived in frugal simplicity in the forest of Fontainebleau, working industriously for small pay. The fame of his genius has extended far and wide since his death, while his character has been presented in an interesting light by many biographical comments. The picture, as will be seen from our engraving, shows a couple of peasants in an attitude of devotion as they hear the bell of the neighbouring convent sounding the Angelus at the close of day.



Printed by WALTER SCOTT, Felling-on-Tyne.